



Bruiser Brody Predicts:

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER WILL END CHRIS ADAMS' CAREER

December 1986

47951

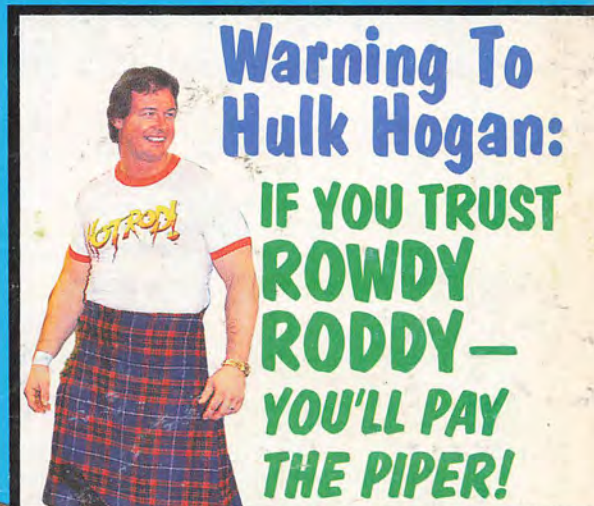


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THE **Wrestler**

*Ric Flair's Fourth
NWA Title Reign:*

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TO QUIET
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Hulk Hogan:**

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World Title Scandal!

**WHY IS THE
AWA PROTECTING
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**Q & A
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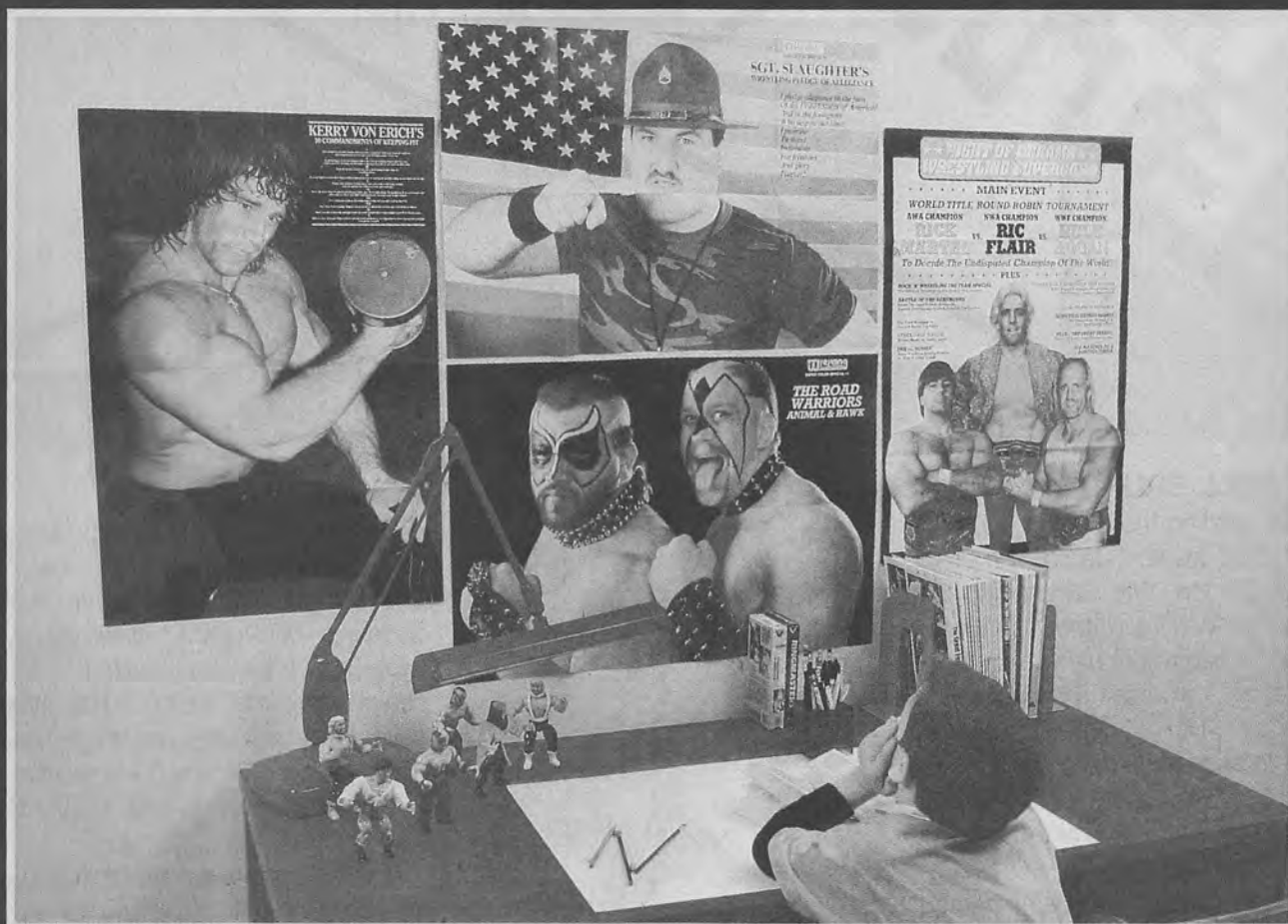
Cover photos:

Flair by Bill Apter

Piper by David Fitzgerald

THE WRESTLER is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Corp., Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Single copy price \$1.75. Annual subscription rate: \$21. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine can be reproduced without the permission of the Publisher. All rights reserved.

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YOUR LETTERS

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IT'S STILL BRUNO'S GARDEN

After reading the story in your October 1986 issue, "Bruno Thrives In Hulk's Garden: Will Sammartino Become The WWF's Number One Man Again?" I had to put my two cents in. First of all, I wouldn't exactly refer to MSG as "Hulk's Garden." Hogan failed to appear there for six months straight in 1985, and it looks like he's trying to tie that record or even break it this year.

I remember Bruno Sammartino's two glorious reigns as World champion, and he rarely (if ever) let a month go by without defending his title in The Garden. I doubt that Bruno has any intention of once again becoming the top dog in the WWF, because "The Living Legend" has absolutely nothing to prove to anybody. He held the WWF belt for 12 years, and in my opinion, he was the greatest wrestler in history. Besides, we must be realistic: Even though I have no doubt that Bruno would have defeated Hulk Hogan in his prime, it's rather unlikely that he could do so today.

However, I disagree with the statement in your article that "there's serious doubts about The Living Legend's ability to beat Randy Savage for the Intercontinental belt." Bruno has already proven that he can whip Savage in tag bouts. I'm sure that



Bruno Sammartino has proven that he can wrestle with Intercontinental champion Randy Savage, according to Joe Cramer.

Bruno doesn't really want the I-C title (or any title), but I can conceive of a scenario where Sammartino would win the belt, then put it up in a tournament just to take it away from that idiot. Bruno is only wrestling today to settle a few scores with blowhards like Savage and Adonis, then I'm sure that he'll retire again for good and just lend his expertise as a commentator. Bruno had his days on top, and now Hogan is having his, and that's the way it should be.

JOE CRAMER
New Florence, PA

CONTINENTAL KUDOS

I was reading the "Ratings Analysis" in the September 1986 issue of *The Wrestler* and I read what Mark Stroming of Verona, New Jersey, wrote about the Southeastern Continental area. He wrote, "This area never receives any coverage and does not deserve any." He went on to suggest that the ratings should be dropped from your magazine.

He was right about one thing, and one thing only. The Continental area hardly ever gets any media coverage. There are many highly talented wrestlers in this area: Tommy Rich (a former NWA World champion), Johnny Rich, Scott, Steve, and Brad Armstrong, Ron and Robert Fuller, Jimmy Golden, Adrian Street, Tom Pritchard, The Bullett, Wendell Cooley, and many others. Many great wrestlers have graced the Continental area—Austin Idol, Tommy Rogers (one of The Fantastics), Mr. Wrestling II, Lord Humongous, Rip Rogers, etc.

NWA World champion Ric Flair also makes frequent trips to the Continental area to defend his title against The Bullet, and has only been saved from losing the belt by the very timely intervention of such men as The Flame and Ron Fuller.

The Continental area deserves much
(Continued on page 48)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

FEW PEOPLE WERE surprised when **Ric Flair** regained the NWA World title from **Dusty Rhodes**, but it's safe to say that the entire wrestling community was shocked when **Baby Doll** turned on Dusty Rhodes and joined Ric Flair. There has been much said about this, but, being close to both Dusty and Baby Doll, I think I can shed some new light on the situation.

I was not in Charlotte, North Carolina, on August 17 and was actually in a sound sleep when the ringing phone awakened me at 2 a.m. It was Dusty and I could tell that he was distraught. "Willie, my friend, you'll never guess what Baby Doll did to me," he said, gasping for breath. "She turned on me, baby, stabbed me in the back like she did to **Tully Blanchard**. I don't know what happened, but ever since I lost the belt to Flair, she's been like a different person."

He explained to me that Baby Doll tried to hit him over the head with a chair during a match against Flair, and then **Arn Anderson** and **Tully Blanchard** ran in to finish off the job. I tried to rationalize to The Dream that Baby Doll had done these things in the past and he



Baby Doll points her thumb at the only person in the world who really matters to her. Will Ric Flair be the next man to be burned?

shouldn't be so upset, but Dusty refused to listen.

"I did a lot for this girl," Rhodes sobbed. "I protected her, I treated her well, but I could never do enough. She just wanted more and more. Maybe you're right, Willie. I should have seen it coming."

That morning, right after breakfast, I telephoned Baby Doll and the woman I heard on the other end of the phone was definitely *not* the Baby Doll we've all come to know and love over the past six months.

"He thinks he's such a man," snarled Baby Doll, "but where was he when I had to fight **Jim Cornette**? Who the heck did he think I was defending when Cornette jabbed me with the racket in the first place? I was in there for him! Then, he finally has a chance to defend my honor, but he makes me go after Cornette myself. If **The Midnight Express** attacked me again, he wouldn't have been there. Then, the big, fat fool loses the title to Flair after holding it for only two weeks. That was the last straw. He showed what kind of man he really is."

Obviously, there's a lot more to this than Dusty and Baby Doll are telling me. Interpersonal relationships are always complicated, and it's often impossible to get the entire story. Emotions are running very high, and it will take some cooling down before the entire situation is settled. For now, however, Dusty is a jilted man and Baby

(Continued on page 52)

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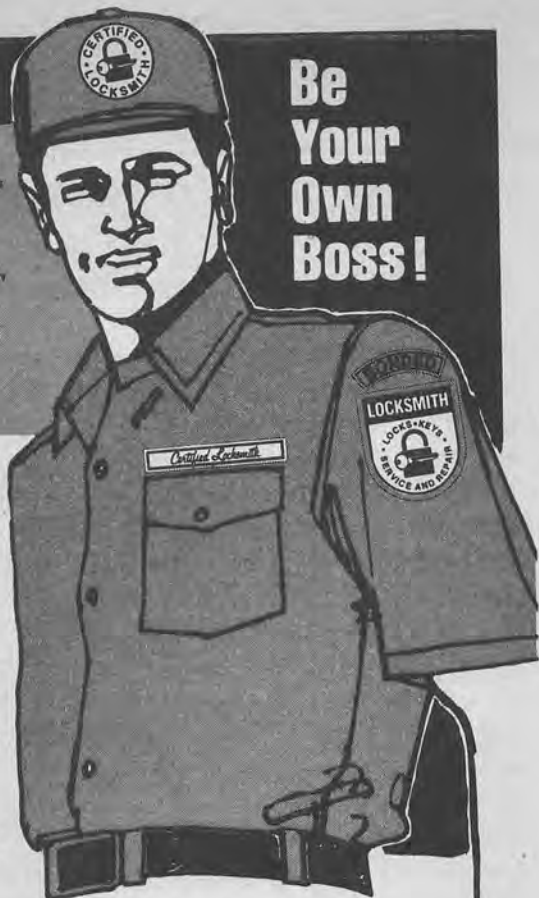
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REPORTS

Houston, TX (Correspondent—Annette Passmore): The main event of this UWF card at Sam Houston Coliseum featured the continuation of the war between Hacksaw Jim Duggan and One Man Gang in a no-disqualification match.

Duggan attacked OMG prior to the opening bell and both men exchanged hard punches in the ring. Then, OMG threw Duggan into the ropes and Gang's manager, Skandor Akbar, pulled down the top rope, sending Hacksaw tumbling to the arena floor. One Man Gang followed and the fight was on outside the ring.

Duggan returned to the ring, grabbed Akbar, and pulled him through the ropes. Duggan still hadn't forgotten the pain Akbar had caused him in the past and wanted to dish out punishment in return. One Man Gang saved his manager from more harm by distracting Duggan, then decided he had had enough of Duggan for one night and fled to the dressing room. Duggan was awarded the win by countout.

In other bouts: The Fantastics beat Eddie Gilbert & Sting by disqualification ... Ted DiBiase & The Missing Link defeated John Tatum & Jack Victory ... Koko B. Ware beat One Man Gang by DQ ... Rick Steiner beat Brett Sawyer ... Gary Young defeated Gustavo Mendoza ... The Free-



One Man Gang scoops Hacksaw Duggan off his feet and drives him into the canvas. As if wrestling a 468-pounder were not enough, Duggan would have to contend with One Man Gang's manager, Skandor Akbar, before the evening was over.

birds beat Bill Watts, Chavo Guerrero, & Terry Taylor in a two-ring, 20-man \$50,000 battle royal. six-man tag team match ...

(Continued on page 56)

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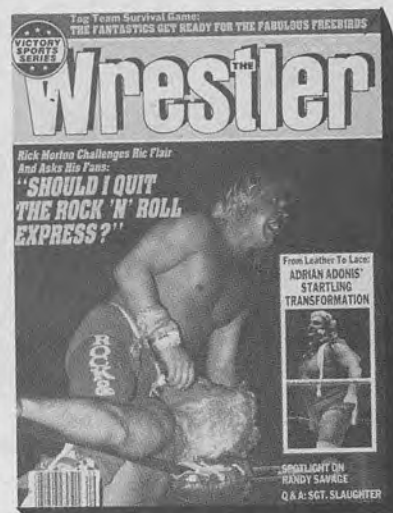
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Q: "My question is for the former [ha! ha!] NWA champion, Ric Flair: Well, Ric, don't flare up with excitement, because my question isn't going to exactly make your day! But anyway, my question is: When are you gonna shut up and stop bragging? You see, I remember a time just about two months ago when you said that you live in a big house, on a big hill, and drive a big car. Well, of course I knew that, but I think some people didn't quite understand, so let me explain. You live in an apartment, in



Cradling his NWA World title belt, Ric Flair sits on one of his many cars, a \$30,000 Corvette Stingray.

the mountains, and drive a chain gang bus. But, of course, the chain gang is all of your loyal and only friends, The Four Horsemen!"—Chesney Reich, Statesville, NC

A: Flair replied: "Former no longer, Chesney my dear, because The Nature Boy has disposed of that big fat tub of lard named Dusty Rhodes and brought the belt back where it belongs. Now, I have a little question for you, you little snot-nosed ignoramus. And what kind of name is that, anyway, Chesney Reich? Was your father a Nazi? Have you no respect?

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones!

Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to:

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Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

Are you a man or a woman? Do I know your mother? As for your inference that I am a braggart, I have no reason to brag because my record speaks for itself. And that chain gang bus you speak of is your own, sitting on your front lawn up on four cinder blocks, littering the neighborhood, just like all the other trash."

Q: "My question is for either of The Midnight Rockers: How do you decide who starts a match in the ring, and also, how do you go about developing and perfecting new moves?"—Lisa DePetro, Cyclone, PA

A: "Usually, it depends on who we're wrestling," replied Sean Michaels. "Although Marty and I wrestle with a similar style, there are subtle differences between us that could be better suited for certain situations. At other times, especially when we're



Sean Michaels and Marty Jannetty—The Midnight Rockers—are constantly working to increase the repertoire of moves.

wrestling a team we don't know much about, we try to alternate from night to night. As for developing our moves, we watch other teams, try to improvise off the moves we already have, and see if we can come up with something new. There's only one way to perfect these moves and that's practice, practice, practice."

Q: "My question is for Kerry Von Erich: With youth and a good head about you, are you really going to devote yourself entirely to the sport? I mean, you're a good-looking guy, so come on, hit the screens. You'd make it big, I'm sure."—Sue Lynn, Port Jefferson, NY

A: "Well, Sue, I'm flattered," replied Kerry, "and if any movie offers came along, I'd definitely consider them. But right now, I have only one thing on my mind, and that's

(Continued on page 58)

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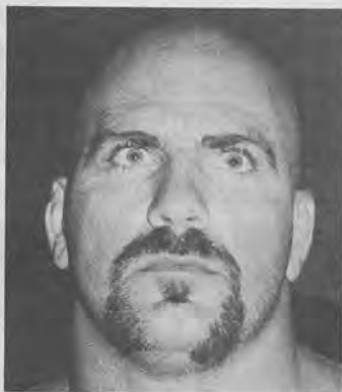
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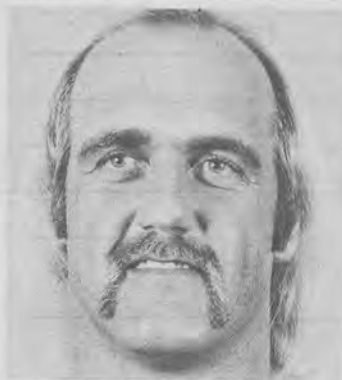
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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Nikita Koloff. "The Russian Nightmare" lived up to his words by winning the U.S. title series, four matches to three, from Magnum T.A. Under the able direction of his uncle Ivan, Nikita displayed outstanding strength and wrestling ability (in addition, admittedly, to some illegal trickery) while overpowering the confused, and often overmatched, Magnum T.A. Although Nikita almost blew a 3-0 series lead, he never lost his composure. Fans who are looking for a wrestler who will dominate the rest of the '80s need look no further than Nikita Koloff. Hate him if you want, but you have to respect his abilities.



Thumbs Up to Hulk Hogan. And a rare one, at that. Hogan has felt the sting of our poison pen for numerous reasons, ranging from his cartoon image to his infrequent defenses of the WWF World heavyweight title. When Vince McMahon claimed that Hogan's 52 defenses a year was a heavy schedule, we almost choked on our tongues. But now it's time to give credit where it's due. In mid-August, Hogan embarked on a 16-day period in which he successfully defended his belt 12 times, certainly a healthy schedule for any wrestler. Now, let's see if Hogan can maintain a similar schedule for the remainder of the year.



Thumbs Up to Lex Luger. Bob Roop had the filmed proof that would have forced the NWA to strip Masked Superstar of the Southern title, but Luger proved that actions speak louder than words. It was obvious to everyone, except the referee, that Masked Superstar used a foreign object in his mask to win the title, but Luger refused to use the filmed proof to his benefit. Instead, just one week later, Luger regained the belt with a stunning display of wrestling skills that proved once and for all who the dominant force in Florida wrestling is today. He refused to complain and use an easy out. Lex Luger is a role model for everybody.



Thumbs Up to Scott Hall. At Scott Hall's age, most people today are concerned only about how they are going to get ahead in this world. The lure of the big bucks is far more important than principles such as human dignity. With his looks, size, and ever-increasing ability, Hall has the opportunity to go for major singles titles all over the world. Instead, he has dedicated his career to his feud with Col. DeBeers, who, in support of South Africa's apartheid policy, is dedicated to depriving human beings of their basic rights. Hall is a throwback to the 1960s, when people were more socially conscious than self-conscious. It's refreshing to see.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Joe Pedicino. Did the water incident with Mr. Wrestling II cloud your thinking? Did the Hawaiian sun get to you? Say it ain't so, Joe! On the August 16 edition of *Superstars Of Wrestling* on WATL-TV in Atlanta, did you really say that you didn't think Super Giant Machine was Andre the Giant? Who are you trying to kid? We seriously hope that Pedicino, one of the finest announcers in the sport, has not jumped on McMahon's bandwagon of deceit. If so, wrestling has lost one of its most honest spokesmen.



Thumbs Down to Baby Doll. And while we're at it, we'd like to retract that thumbs up from last month, and any other good things we've said about this no-good, double-crossing, low-down, back-stabbing . . . wench. Yes, that's the word! Wench! We usually try not to get so emotional, but even our own Bill Apter had a tear in his eyes while suggesting this "thumbs down." Baby Doll has had a jaded career, and she's jumped from one wrestler to another, but we never thought she'd turn her back on Dusty Rhodes, especially in such a violent manner, and join Ric Flair. For shame!



Thumbs Down to J.D. Costello. The dictionary definition for "manage" is to have charge of or responsibility for, which makes J.D. Costello, rapidly becoming the most controversial figure in wrestling, solely to blame for the actions of his tag team Fire and Flame. While a shocked Mid-Southern television audience looked on, Flame attacked two ringside fans, rendering both unconscious. Announcer Lance Russell immediately imposed a lifetime TV ban on Fire and Flame, but he should have banned Costello. A rich, spoiled brat, Costello must start taking responsibility for his actions and needs to be taught a lesson.



Thumbs Down to Eddie Gilbert. Whether it's Hot Stuff and Hyatt International or Hyatt and Hot Stuff International, Gilbert has made us rather nauseous with his recent behavior. First of all, he claims to be John Tatum's friend, but it's obvious to everyone that Gilbert is putting the moves on Tatum's girl, Missy Hyatt. Secondly, and perhaps most disgustingly, Gilbert publicly bows down to Hyatt's every want and need, like a whipped 60-year-old man who cleans his wife's toes and helps color her hair. Act like a man, Eddie! Stop messing around behind Tatum's back and show some backbone! □



THE Wrestler

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March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

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November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

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January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

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September 1986/Stories include: Rhodes & T.A., Andre, Adams, Hall, Windham, Journey vs. Maxine.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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INTRODUCING SEAN ROYAL

Sean Royal is the latest powerfully built scientific wrestler to converge on the Florida area. And although he's only been around for five months, Royal is quickly establishing himself as one of the most imposing men around. And one of the most mobile

SEAN ROYAL WAS moving when we first contacted him for an interview.

How appropriate.

From the moment he was born, Sean Royal was being prepared for the on-the-go life of professional wrestling, rarely remaining in one spot for long. He was born in Kittery, Maine, on March 16, 1965, but never had a chance to enjoy the pine-treed beauty and rocky coastline of the state.

Within a few months, Sean's family moved to Portland, Oregon, where they remained for nine years. After that relatively stable beginning, Sean's family began to move and move and move: first to California then to Richmond, Virginia, and finally to Tampa, Florida, in 1980. Royal attended Plant High School, where he wrestled as an amateur and won several regional awards. There he met David Keomuka, son of Florida wrestling official and former great Duke Keomuka, and began his first association with professional wrestling.

After graduating from high school in 1983, however, Royal decided to attend Tulane University and pursue a football scholarship. But after two years at Tulane, Sean began to yearn for the wrestling mat again.

So Sean contacted Duke Keomuka, who introduced him to Hiro Matsuda. Matsuda was training men for the Continental Wrestling Federation and



Sean Royal, a perfectly proportioned 6'4", 235-pounder, is on the verge of cracking the Florida ratings. According to experts in the Sunshine State, the potential of this former football player and amateur wrestler, is limitless.

took an immediate liking to the young Royal. "He asked me if I had ever wrestled before, and I told him that I had, in high school," Royal recalls. "Then, he told me all about how tough a wrestler's life is, how a wrestler is always on the go and traveling

from place to place. He asked me if I could handle it. I just laughed and nodded my head."

Matsuda put Royal through an intensive training session, which tested the youngster mentally and physically.

(Continued on page 20)

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Royal has been on the move for his entire life—and he doesn't stop when he gets in the ring. Sean takes The Cuban Assassin down with a flying headscissors.

"It was really something," reveals Royal. "I go into the ring now, and after some of the matches, I'll think that the training sessions with Hiro were much tougher than the match I had just won. Hiro really got me ready."

The 6'4", 235-pound Royal made his debut in April in Ft. Pierce, Flori-

da, and was very impressive. He defeated Jerry Grey with an abdominal stretch and immediately commanded the respect of veteran Florida wrestling analyst Gordon Solie.

"Whenever I see a young man wrestle for the first time," says Solie, "I try to keep my eye focused even more diligently on his actions in the ring. The second I saw Royal, I knew that I was witnessing a young man with unlimited potential, perhaps the kind of wrestler who can dominate not only this area, but other regions in and

around the continental United States and its surrounding borders. Over the past few months, I have only become more impressed with his ability and ring intelligence. His flying cross-bodyblock is superb, a finely tuned commodity in the ring that young Sean utilizes with aplomb."

Royal quickly became adopted as a fan favorite, perhaps because of the immediate comparisons he draws with Southern champion Lex Luger. Royal is smaller than the 280-pound Luger, but nearly his equal in physique, thanks to a strict gym regimen that he has followed since high school. He's also an outstanding scientific wrestler.

"Lex and I think alike in this sense," says Royal. "We both take care of our bodies and try to remain in peak shape. If your body isn't healthy, your mind isn't healthy—and you need both to wrestle. This is a demanding sport, more so than football or amateur wrestling, and if you look at the top wrestlers out there, Ric Flair, Luger, Magnum T.A., Nikita Koloff, you'll notice that they all keep their bodies in top condition. It's the guys who combine strength with scientific ability who are successful."

Royal has quickly advanced in the Florida area and appears to be on the verge of breaking into the top 10, quite a feat for a man who has been wrestling professionally for only five months. Although Royal has not been granted matches against the top contenders (recent matches have been with The Cuban Assassin, Chris Champion, Jerry Grey, The Ninja, and The Marauder), he is currently at war with Sir Oliver Humperdink's stable.

"Humperdink is a low down fink," says Royal, "but since Humperdink has been paying more attention to me, so has everybody else, so this whole thing might be a blessing in disguise. I'm not sure exactly what Humperdink has against me, but I guess he thinks I fit into the Luger mold. That fat, overweight, idiot doesn't seem to like anybody who's in shape." □

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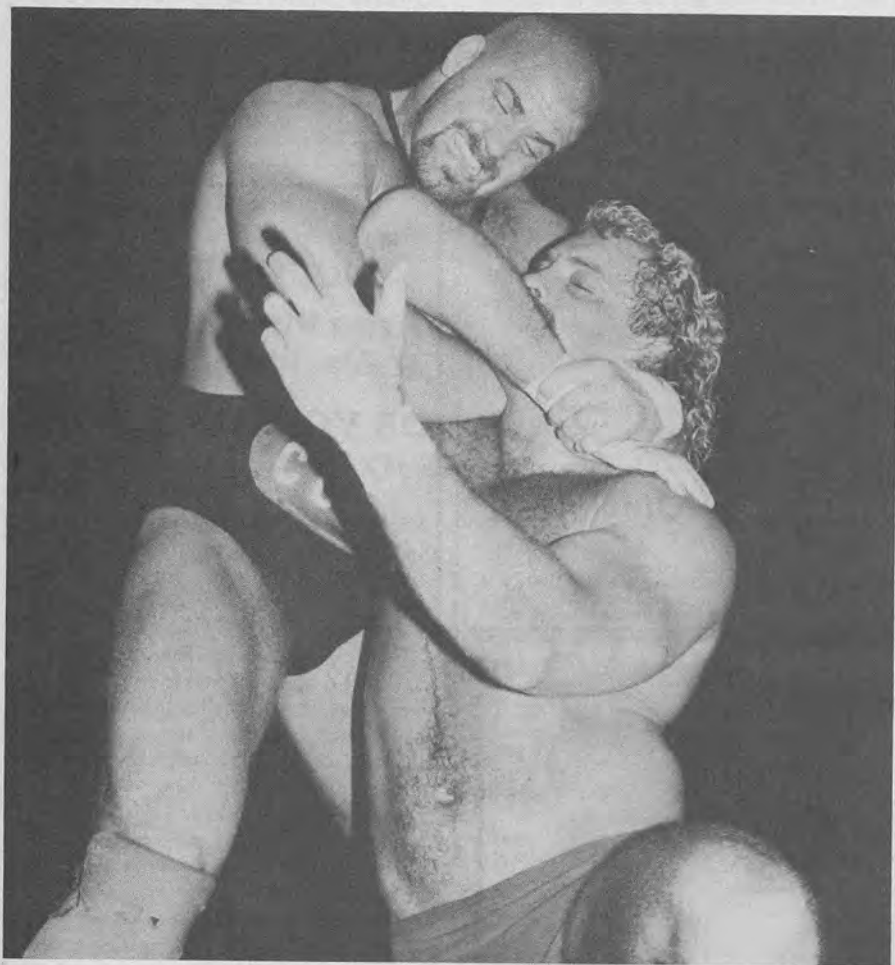
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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Nikita Koloff might be closer to the truth than even he suspects when he says that Magnum T.A. "was frustrated and knew that he couldn't beat me fairly." The Russian Nightmare wore down his American rival and left Magnum exhausted.

Q: Nikita, I hold here in my hands a copy of a local newspaper from Leningrad, which says, and I quote, "Nikita Koloff's fantastic victory over the American, Magnum T.A., is additional proof of the vast superiority Soviet athletes have over their capitalist counterparts in the United States. Now, the Soviet Council on the Control and Development of Athletics is preparing for Nikita's triumphant return, when the belt will be retired at Red Square." Do you have any comment on this report?

A: This newspaper that you speak of is very honored in my country, unlike American newspaper and magazine that speak lies and half-truths about the world. They recognize Nikita's greatness and are informing the Soviet people of another tremendous accomplishment by their comrade.

Q: That's fine, but it's not the point I'm getting at. If this story is correct, then you plan on taking the U.S. belt back to the Soviet Union and never returning it. Now, this is in direct conflict with NWA rules, which state that the title must be defended at least once every 30 days and the belt may not be taken out of the continental United States. Do you plan to ignore this rule?



NIKITA KOLOFF

YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE has come true, Magnum T.A. That guy over there, the one with the bulging muscles, the sly grin, and the broken English has the United States heavyweight belt around his waist. He's a Russian, a red, and his name is Nikita Koloff. Just imagine that, Magnum, the U.S. belt, your U.S. belt, is in the hands of a Communist, The Russian Nightmare.

On August 17 in Charlotte, North Carolina, Nikita Koloff completed the task that the government of the U.S.S.R. had set forth for him. By pinning Magnum T.A., Nikita won the best-of-seven series for the U.S. championship, four to three. It was an impressive, though controversial, victory that confirmed what many had known all along: Nikita Koloff is one of the greatest wrestlers in the world.

The scary thing is that Nikita has only been in the sport for three years and is backed up by the coaching of his uncle, the legendary Ivan Koloff. His ability is virtually unsurpassed, his potential unlimited. In this question and answer session with Senior Editor Bill Apter, Nikita discusses the recently completed "World Series of Wrestling," his plans for the future, and his always controversial views on professional wrestling. You can hate him, but Nikita has left little doubt that he is a force to be reckoned with.

A: Rules are not for Nikita to be concerned about, and neither are your nosey questions. I am great hero in my country and will respond to my people's wishes. I cannot reveal my plans for the future. You will now ask me different questions.

Q: Very well. At one point during the series, you led three matches to none and it looked like you would easily win the title. But then Magnum came back to win three straight. How do account for this sudden reversal, and were you ever worried?

A: Concern and worry is for the weak. Confidence is for the strong. I am confident man. Magnum T.A. did not win three matches, he was given them through the cheating tactics of the referee, an American. But Magnum, a spoiled brat, as you call it, was not happy with this and hit the referee.

Q: In Greensboro, you mean? From what I understand, both of you hit the referee and it was purely by accident on his part.

A: There are no accidents. Everything that happens is by choice. You cannot excuse Magnum T.A. for this. He was frustrated and knew that he couldn't beat me fairly. I had no doubts. My uncle Ivan told me, "Nikita, you will win the first three matches. Then, you will take

it easy and tease the stupid Americans, make them think that they have a chance to beat you. Then, you will take it away from them so it will hurt even more." I did this.

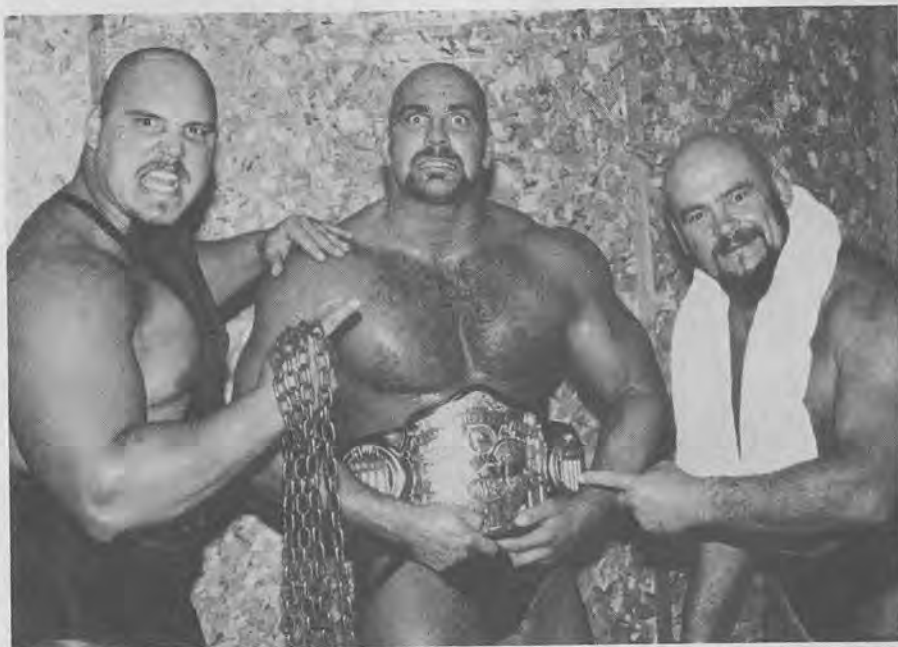
Q: So you're saying that you could have beaten Magnum T.A. any time you wanted.

A: That is truth. You are not as ignorant as I thought. Understand, I am the nephew of the man who destroyed Bruno Sammartino. Beating Magnum T.A. was simple task.

Q: But then, even in the last match in Charlotte, you needed help to win the . . .

A: What are you talking about?

Q: First Ivan taunted T.A. and got him outside the ring, then Krusher Khrushchev came out and distracted the referee. By that time, T.A. was back in the ring and you illegally used the chain on him. Naturally, the referee didn't see it, and you—wisely, I might add—got rid of the chain by the time he returned to the ring.



Nikita, flanked by his Uncle Ivan Koloff and frequent tag team partner Krusher Khrushchev, displays his newly won United States championship belt. Nikita's next goal is Ric Flair's NWA World heavyweight title.



NWA President Bob Geigel, the man who stripped Magnum of the U.S. title, orders Koloff to release Magnum from the ropes (above). Koloff shows the intensity of his effort as he engages Magnum in a test of strength (below).



A: You do not understand. You are asking for trouble, Bill Apter. I thought you had mind of your own when you put down Magnum

T.A. on television, but I was mistaken. You do not know what you are looking at.

Q: Well then, you tell me what

happened.

A: My uncle was shouting out instructions so that I could put finishing touch on T.A. Then, T.A. knew he was going to lose, so he ran out of ring and viciously piledrived Uncle Ivan for no reason at all. My comrade, Krusher Khrushchev, came out to help my injured uncle and then T.A. started yelling at him, too. Magnum returned to the ring and I saw a crazy man coming at me so I took out the chain. This was in self-defense. Then, after I hit him, I saw no reason to hold on to the chain, so I threw it out and pinned the slime.

Q: That's a unique rendition. Perhaps I should watch the tape once again. I'd be interested to hear your account of the match the night before, the double-countout in Philadelphia. NWA President Bob Geigel refereed that match, and after it was over, Ivan went into the ring and landed a vicious punch against Geigel. Now, according to precedent, Ivan should be punished for his actions, shouldn't he?

A: Once again, capitalist rhetoric. Mr. Apter, I see you have lost your hair, but I did not realize that you had lost your eyesight. Now shut up! My uncle was protesting another violation of the rules by T.A. and was simply waving his hands to make a point. Mr. Geigel, as he always does, got in the way.

Q: I can see that the way I see things and the way you see things is totally different, so perhaps we should go on to a different line of questioning. Let me ask you this: Winning the U.S. belt from Magnum T.A. was a goal of yours for a long time and you finally accomplished it. I must say, I am very impressed by your ability and was wondering what your next goal is?

A: Winning U.S. belt was short-term plan designed to embarrass Americans and bring further glory to my country. Now, I will go after World championship, which I will accomplish in short period of time. Ric Flair is very good wrestler, but



A weary Magnum can do nothing but brace himself to be slammed.

he is also an American and cannot measure up to the great Nikita. Then, when I win NWA World title, I will go on to rule all of wrestling.

Q: Does that mean you plan to wrestle Hulk Hogan somewhere down the line?

A: Hulk Hogan does not exist. He is not a man, but a figment of the imagination of American dreamers who have no desires and no accomplishments. What is this Hulkster? He is representative of the failings and weaknesses of the capitalist system. In my country, he would be exiled to Siberia for his greed.

Q: And how about Magnum T.A.? What would his fate be in the Soviet Union?

A: Magnum T.A. has already been burned in effigy on many occasions. I believe that he would make fine sideshow addition to Moscow Circus.

Q: And Ivan Koloff?

A: Ivan Koloff is greatest wrestling mind that every lived. Nikita owe all his accomplishments to brilliant uncle. He is respected in my country as the genius that he is. This is something that Americans fail to understand. It will be your undoing. □

Wrestling 86

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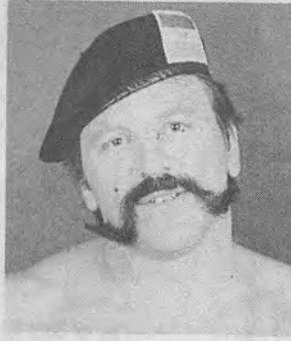
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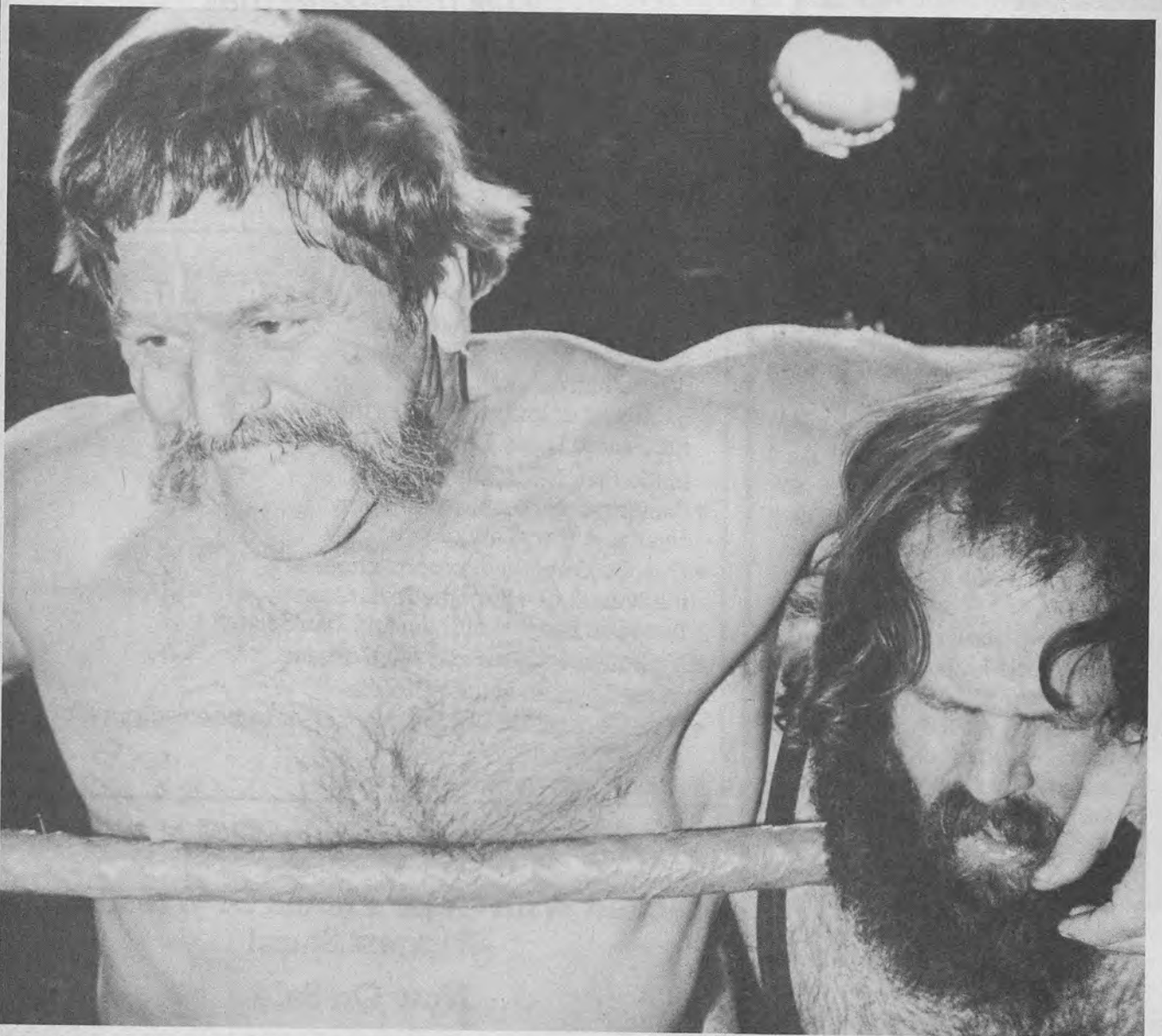
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



COL. DeBEERS

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Wrestling is a sport of emotion. To be effective in the ring, one must contain a certain degree of rage. But Col. DeBeers is hateful to the point where it can only hurt him in the ring. Even when he wrestles one of his "own kind," like The Alaskan, DeBeers will smile when his opponent is suffering.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"I tell you, there are some people I'd rather not talk about and this DeBeers fellow just gives me a big, fat headache with all his talk about South Africa. There's just no place for that in the ring, and I think it gets in the way of his wrestling. How can you wrestle when you always have politics on your mind? I say, you always have to keep your mind empty when you're in the ring and DeBeers just doesn't do that."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"This man is a mauler and he's got more courage than almost any wrestler I've ever seen. When he mounts an attack, nobody's gonna get him to stop, and it's awfully hard to reverse the momentum. Now, I know a lot of people don't like his politics, but the guy has a right to say what he wants. I think it drives him, makes him a more dangerous wrestler, and that can only work to his advantage."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



BOB ROOP

"I think DeBeers is the kind of man who can cause trouble to a lot of wrestlers. He's big, strong, brave, and very self-confident. That's the big thing, I think, and something I had trouble instilling in Lex Luger. It's one thing to say that you're going to win, but another thing entirely to actually think it and mean it. It's the biggest obstacle to becoming great, and DeBeers already has that out of his way."

Bob Roop, a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic team and an AAU All-America from 1966-1969, manages Lex Luger.



BUDDY ROGERS

"There are some things I like about DeBeers, and some things I dislike. Obviously, the guy has had some military training and you can tell by the way he wrestles. He devises a game plan and sticks to it, but he's able to change his plan as need be. But DeBeers is very susceptible to a wrestler with strong scientific skills and a good aerial attack, which is why, I think, he refused to wrestle Jimmy Snuka. Don't believe any of that apartheid crap he dealt out."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ

"DeBeers spends entirely too much time with his politics and not enough time working on improving his skills, which is strange for a man who seems so disciplined once he steps into the ring. He's awfully overconfident for a man who is so limited in so many ways. A good, solid scientific wrestler should be able to pin DeBeers in a matter of minutes. He has plenty of potential, but I think DeBeers would be better off if he stuck to business."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



VERNE GAGNE

"Well, I have mixed emotions about the Colonel. As Executive Producer of AWA Championship Wrestling, I don't like the controversy he causes with his apartheid talk, and he often refuses to wrestle certain guys. Honestly, his politics make me sick. But from a pure wrestling stance, he's an aggressive, courageous wrestler and his victory over Wahoo [McDaniel] at WrestleRock '86 was one of the most exciting matches I've ever seen."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

Ric Flair's Fourth NWA Title Reign:



LAST CHANCE TO QUIET THE CRITICS!

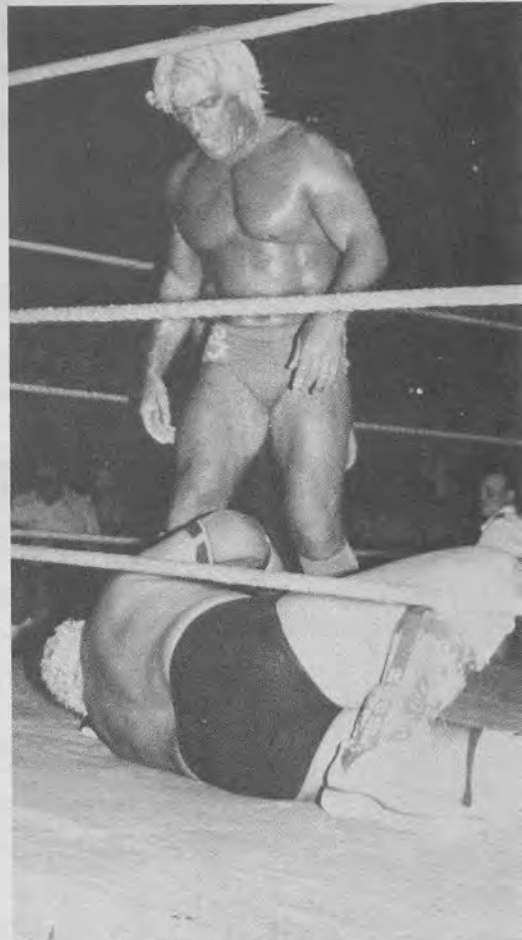
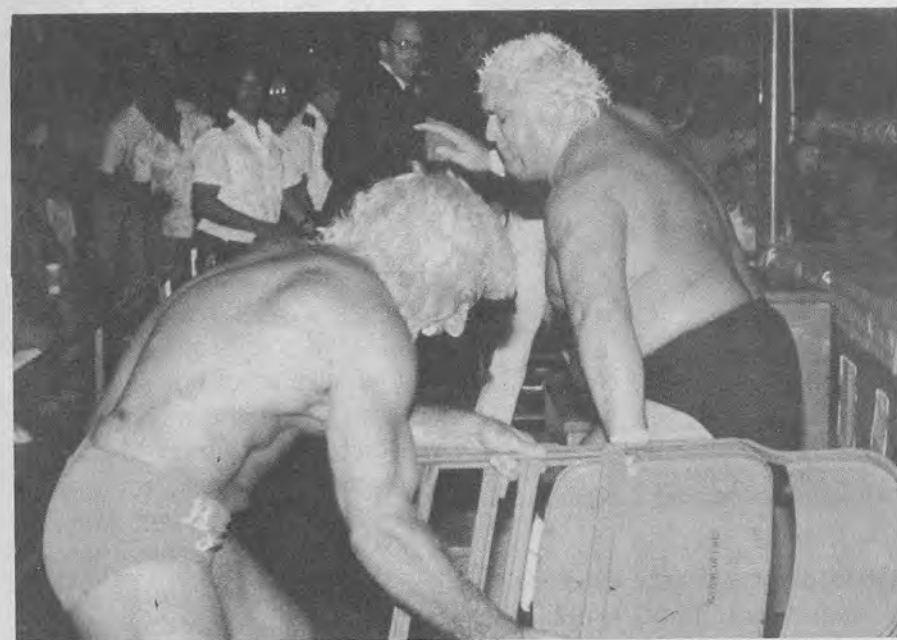
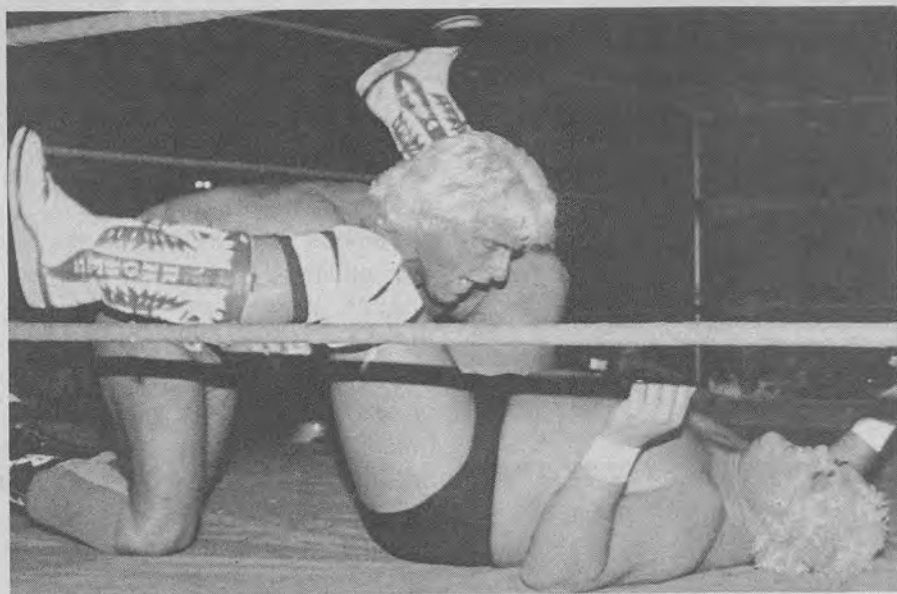
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING IS a sport of change. Few things ever remain the same for a long period of time. Wrestlers switch from one area to another, rule-breakers become fan favorites, fan favorites become rulebreakers, titles change, challengers change. The incredible demands of the sport make stagnation the road to

damnation.

Take the NWA's top 10 from the February 1982 issue of *The Wrestler*. Jerry Brisco has retired, Ted DiBiase is in the UWF, Jack Brisco retired, Harley Race is in the WWF, Dusty Rhodes has stayed put, but Ken Patera (imprisoned), The Spoiler (Asia), Roddy Piper (WWF), Tommy Rich (Continental and Deep

South), and Sgt. Slaughter (AWA and NWF) are out of the elite group.

Then there's Ric Flair, whose name, in the February 1982 ratings, was at the top for the first of many, many times. Five years later, he's still there, still the best the NWA has to offer, the one thing you can *almost* always depend upon in professional wrestling.



On the surface, Ric Flair's title victory over Dusty Rhodes in St. Louis was viewed as a brilliant display of wrestling ingenuity. Flair has since been heavily criticized for his alleged involvement in Tully Blanchard and J.J. Dillon's attack on Dusty two days earlier that left "The American Dream's" leg nearly crippled. Dusty had trouble getting to his feet throughout the match (top left). Flair swings a chair at the bad knee (left) and challenges Dusty to get to his feet (above).

For the better part of the last five years, Ric Flair has been the NWA World champion, but still he is constantly criticized. Now, as The Nature Boy begins his fourth title reign, he has the chance to prove his greatness and silence the critics forever

Champions come and go, but Ric Flair is still number one. Consistency, the trademark of greatness.

Why is it that people continue to criticize Flair when he's been NWA World champion for all but six months during the past five years? Could it be that he hasn't faced high caliber competition? Nonsense! Flair has wrestled Briscos,

Von Erichs, Russians, Rhodes, Race, Slaughter, Magnum T.A., Windhams, Duggan, Rude, Hansen, Backlund, Piper, Steamboat, etc. If there's a man in the sport worth wrestling, chances are that Flair has met the challenge.

"They've tried the rest, but they can't beat the best," boasted Flair in his best pizza-box talk after he began

his fourth title reign by defeating Rhodes in St. Louis. "They talk all about this disqualification crap and then they bellyache about the officiating, but they fail to realize the most important part of this whole deal. They fail to recognize the greatness of The Nature Boy."

These are not the words of a paranoid champion, or a man beg-

Dusty experiences excruciating pain as Flair has him securely locked in his figure-four (right). Moments later, Flair, Dillon, and Blanchard would return to the dressing room to begin their celebration (below).



ging for attention and glory. Flair does not feel the criticism he constantly faces is justified. Each month, thousands of letters come into the editorial offices of *The Wrestler*, chastizing Flair for one thing or another.

"Ric Flair is paying off referee Tommy Young" or "Bob Geigel is playing favorites with Flair" or "Flair is always getting himself disqualified to hold on to his title" or "Flair is always relying on outside interference to win his matches."

So, from August 9, 1986, the start of his fourth title reign, to whenever it ends, all eyes of the wrestling world will be on the champion. Flair thought he had earned some respect with an outstanding, tactically brilliant victory over Rhodes in St. Louis. He slowly

ground down and wore out the older and slower Rhodes until the champion could no longer defend himself. Unbeknownst to the fans at ringside was that Tully Blanchard and J.J. Dillon had severely injured Dusty's left leg two night earlier in Kansas City after a match between Rhodes and Flair. Although Flair will not accept responsibility for the attack, he cannot change what effect a tarnished title victory will have on his already questionable reputation.

Now, the proverbial ball is in Flair's proverbial court. He has the chance to prove, beyond a doubt, his greatness as a wrestler. The charges that Flair is paying off the referees, or that Geigel favors Flair, are unproven. But there can be little doubt that Flair often gets him-

self disqualified (an overwhelming majority of Flair's matches result in disqualification), and the other Horsemen, Tully Blanchard and the Andersons, always seem to be lurking in the runway.

Perhaps Flair underestimates his own abilities, because he certainly doesn't need help to win his matches. He has combined scientific techniques with brawling ability to become, arguably, the finest overall wrestler in the world. Flair does not need to rely on the controversial disqualification rule, which allows him to protect his title, or outside interference.

"I've had my ups and downs with Flair, but I've never doubted his raw ability," says Bob Roop, now retired from active competition and the newest panelist on *The Wrestler's* "X-Ray" panel. "The guy is as talented as any wrestler in the world. After all, he's been champion for God knows how long, but he's a little messed up. You know, Flair comes off as a big ego and he talks about how great he is, but if he really meant it, he wouldn't have to resort to some of his tactics. Flair wonders why he doesn't get respect. Well, how can you expect to get respect when you don't respect yourself?"

An interesting question, and one for which Flair claims to have an answer. "Roop is still a lot of hot air," the champion retorted. "He could never beat me either, so what the heck is he talking about? I wear my respect around my waist, that's all I know. I have the self-respect and confidence in my abilities to defend my title every night against any opponent. I know that there are some champions elsewhere who can't make that claim and I know that there are plenty of men who have lost their titles and turned to mush. Not the Nature Boy. This is my fourth title reign and I intend to silence the critics, once and for all. Ric Flair will make fools of you all."

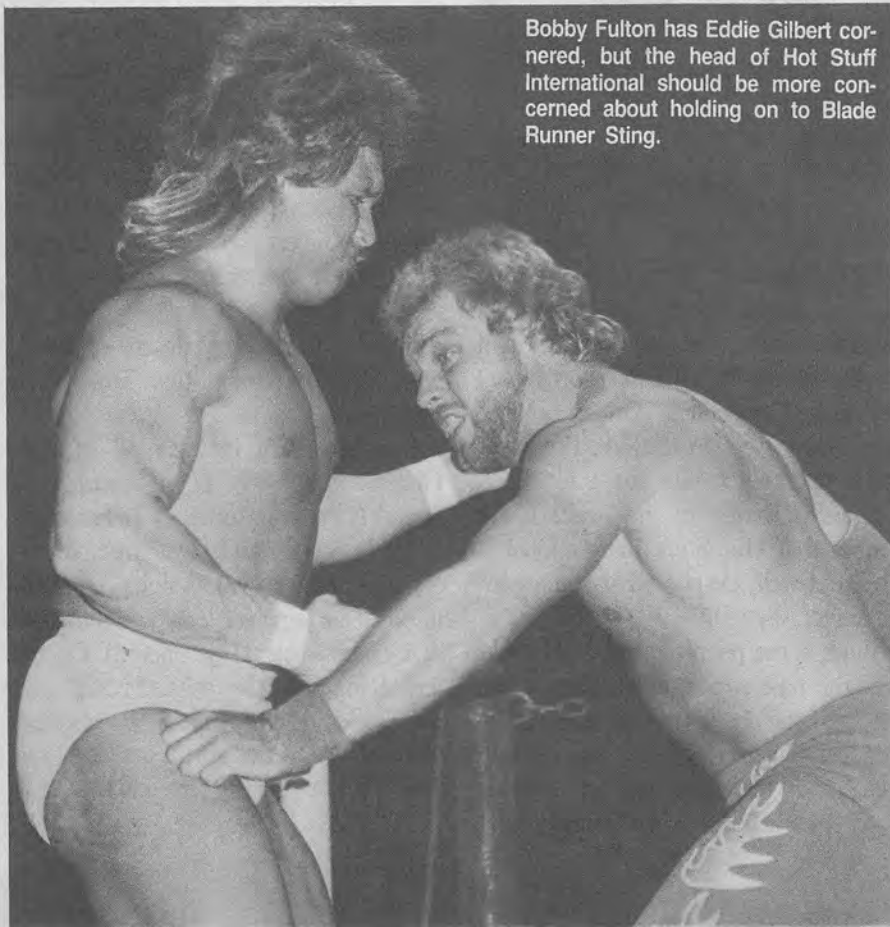
The world is waiting. □

Eddie Gilbert's Unstable Stable

WILL HOT STUFF INC. GET STUNG BY STING?



Blade Runner Rock and Kortsia Korchenko have already defected from Eddie Gilbert's stable and insiders have projected that Blade Runner Sting could be next. Can Gilbert carry out his plan to be wrestling's most influential manager in such unstable times?



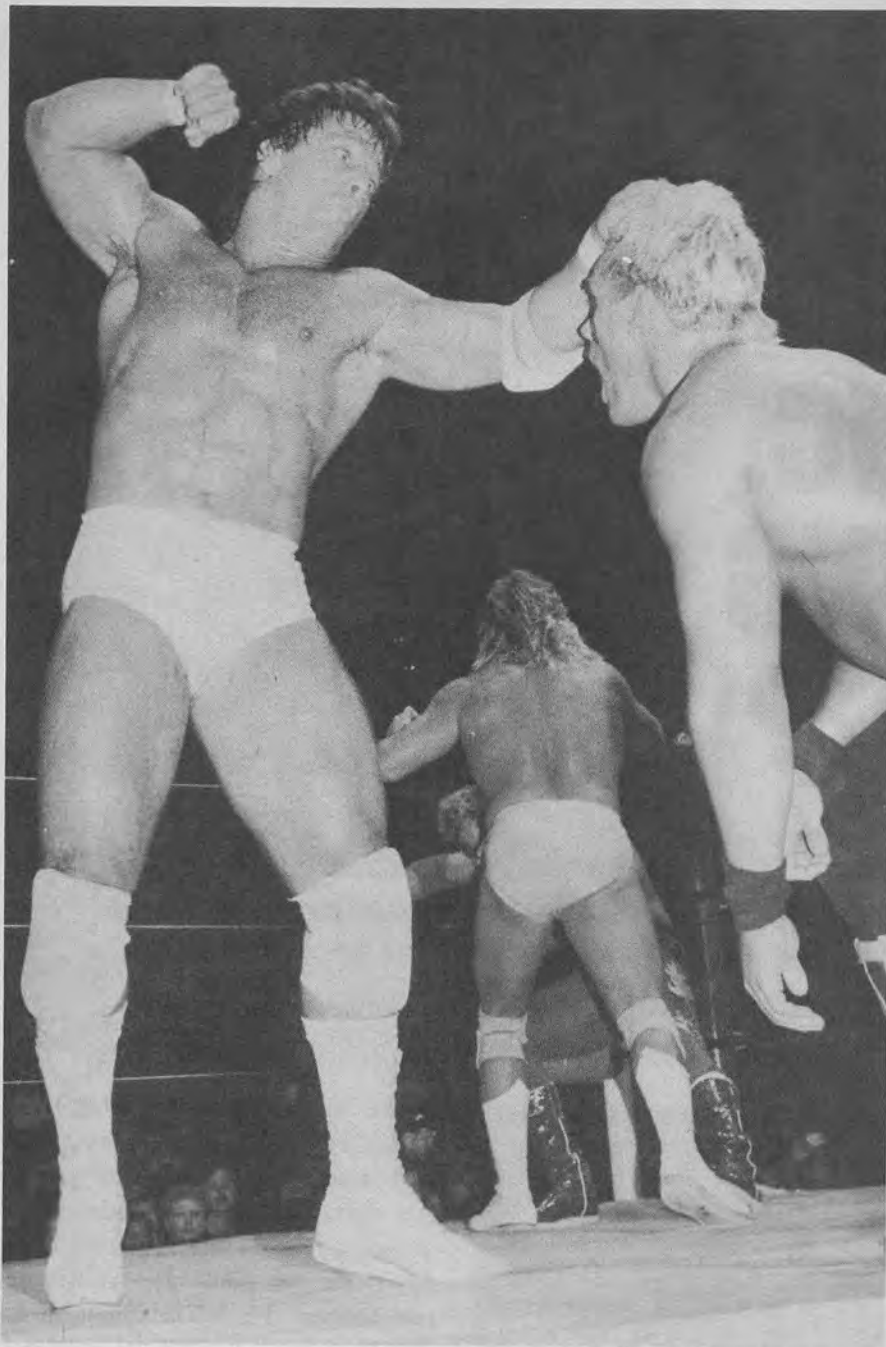
Bobby Fulton has Eddie Gilbert cornered, but the head of Hot Stuff International should be more concerned about holding on to Blade Runner Sting.

EDDIE GILBERT OPENED his office door to greet a guest, but he was not exactly dressed for success. His shirt looked like it hadn't been ironed in months, the tails hung sloppily outside his pants. His socks were two different colors. The Chairman of the Board of Hot Stuff International was in a shambles.

Clothes make the man.

The office itself was also a wreck. Clothing was scattered all over the floor and a table in the center of the room displayed the remnants of a half-eaten Chinese take-out dinner, two empty bottles of wine, and a candle that was about to flicker out. A cursory glance told any visitor that Gilbert uses his offices for more than just business.

"Welcome to the executive suite of Hot Stuff International," said Gilbert while not-too-subtly trying to get himself in order. "Let me show you around. Here we have the executive



Tommy Rogers pounds Sting as Eddie Gilbert and Bobby Fulton battle in the background (left). The Blade Runner is helpless as Fulton lifts Rogers and drops him on Sting (above).

desk, the executive guest couch, and, of course, the executive bar. Naturally, one must entertain one's business clients."

The wall behind Gilbert's "executive desk" displayed awards and trophies he and the men he managed had won, dozens of 11 x 14 photos, and a tiny snapshot of Gilbert and his father, UWF referee Tommy Gilbert, taken when Eddie was just a young boy. And right there, in the center of it all, on display proudly, the UWF tag team title belt that he won with Sting. Next to that a large, almost bigger than life, poster of the one and only Missy Hyatt. Strange.

"This photo of Missy symbolizes the forming of Hot Stuff and Hyatt International, soon to be the most powerful conglomerate in all of professional wrestling," explained Gilbert. "The belt, of course, is the thing I'm most proud of and I plan to make it a permanent fixture on my wall. It's a symbol that Hot Stuff International is alive and well, despite what some people might say."

What some people might say is that over the past two months, Gilbert has watched the breakup of The Blade Runners, when Rock left for another area, and the defection of Kortsia Korchenko. Both men claimed that

Gilbert's feud with UWF President Bill Watts made it impossible for them to get fair treatment and, therefore, shots at the title. This left Gilbert with a stable of one, Blade Runner Sting, and a still unsettled feud with Watts.

Recently, however, when Watts turned most of his attention toward The Freebirds, Gilbert had a chance to recoup. Gilbert successfully recruited Rick Steiner and then came out of retirement to team with Sting and, in one of the shocking upsets of 1986, won the tag team title from The Fantastics.

Somewhere in between all of this, Gilbert and Missy Hyatt merged to form Hyatt and Hot Stuff International (or Hot Stuff and Hyatt International, depending on who's doing the talking). This merger paid immediate dividends when Hyatt helped Gilbert and Sting win the belts. Hyatt, who was watching the match at ringside, climbed up on the apron and knocked out Tommy Rogers with her pocketbook.

This was a significant victory for Gilbert, but it did little to stop the talk. Gilbert's traditional instability—his war with Watts, the problems with his father, and the new association with another unstable character, Missy Hyatt—have made people wonder, more than ever, whether Gilbert will soon once again find himself managing a stable of one.

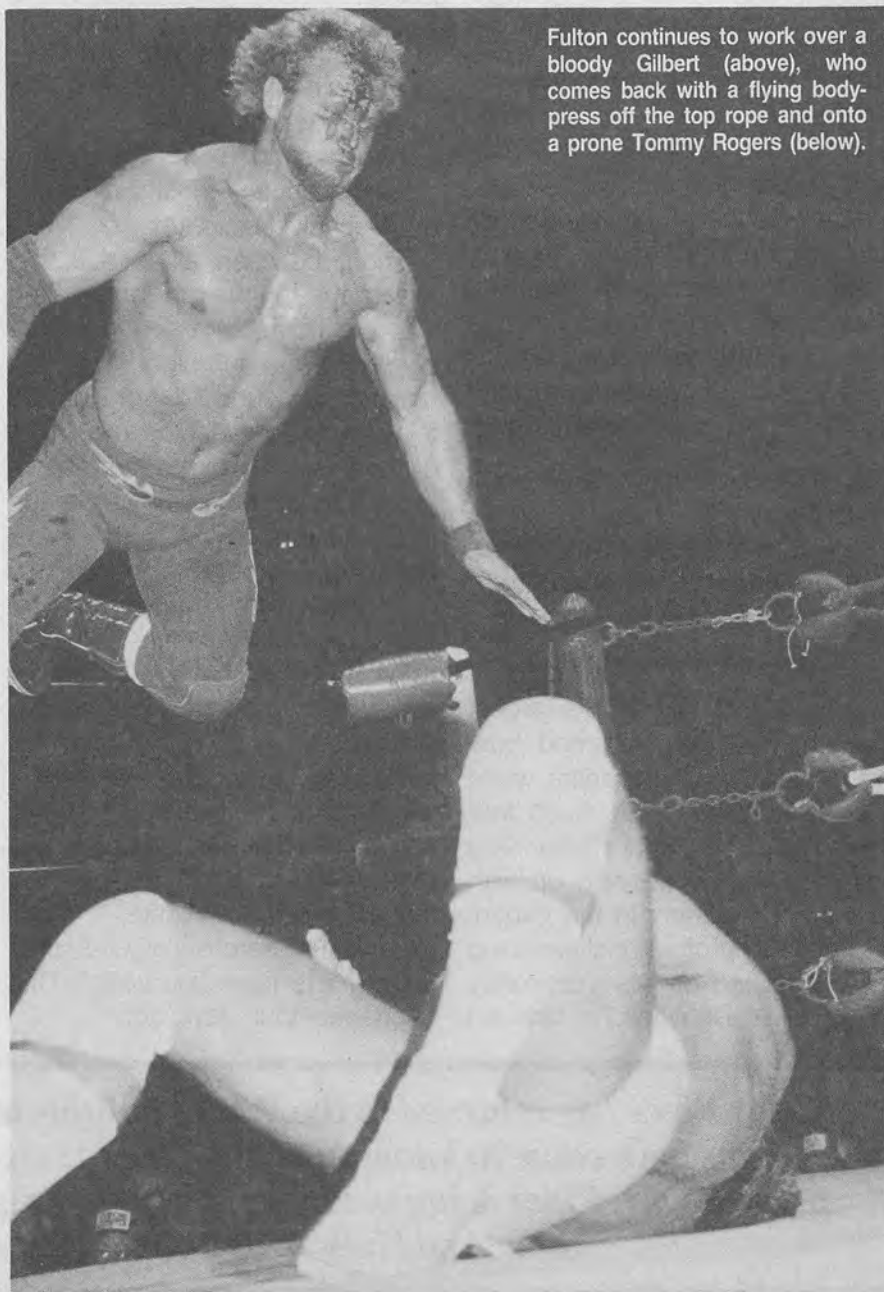
"Total nonsense," insists Gilbert, nervously leaning back in his swivel chair with a toothpick stuck between his lips. "My organization is more stable than ever before. With Missy's huge funds behind me, I now have the financial backing to go along with my wrestling wizardry. Both Sting and Rick [Steiner] have indicated to me that they are on board for the duration."

Steiner is almost a lock to stay with Gilbert, but Sting poses a greater question. The Blade Runners were a team, and the possibility exists that Sting will abandon the title to reunite with Rock. If so, then Gilbert will find himself without a partner and lacking in solid assets to offer Hyatt. After all, Missy is a wealthy woman and isn't likely to waste her money on a man who's wrestling stable barely exists.

"More nonsense," responded Gilbert. "Rock is totally out of the picture and I think Sting understands this. He wasn't too pleased when Rock just left the team and I don't think he'd be so forgiving. Let's keep in mind, too, that I now have the ability to make Sting a very rich and famous man. Hot Stuff and Hyatt International is a stable organization with no internal problems whatsoever. People who are close to me know that this is true. The rest of the world will have to wait and see."

Suddenly, a female voice came from another room and out came a tall, stunning blonde who was also in a disheveled state of dress. Her long, blonde hair was in disarray. She quickly noticed that Gilbert had a visitor and ran back into the room.

"The executive bathroom," stammered Gilbert. "And by the way, that was not Missy Hyatt." □



Fulton continues to work over a bloody Gilbert (above), who comes back with a flying body-press off the top rope and onto a prone Tommy Rogers (below).

Warning To Hulk Hogan **IF YOU TRUST ROWDY RODDY— YOU'LL PAY THE PIPER!**

"Mr. Piper is basically a paranoid personality . . . he could not survive for long as a favorite among the fans . . . Roddy Piper is a danger to himself and to everyone he comes in contact with. He could very well become a fan favorite at some point in his career, and he would be a very believable one. However, the moment someone encroaches on his territory, he becomes capable of anything. He is a bomb waiting to explode and should be watched at all times."

**—Sidney M. Basil, Ph.D.
September 1985
Inside Wrestling**

"Call Dr. Basil, immediately. Piper's at it again."

**—Editor-in-Chief Peter King
after learning that Piper
had become a fan favorite.**

BEING EDITOR OF the largest family of wrestling and boxing magazines in the entire world does not allow a man much free time. Try as he might, Peter King has a hard time keeping up with all that's happening in the expansive sport of professional wrestling without relying on his trustworthy VCR, especially when his beloved

New York Mets are enjoying the finest season in their history.

So, while all you wrestling fans are relaxing on a Saturday morning, taking in the most recent edition of *WWF Championship Wrestling*, King is usually toiling away at a business meeting, or planning the next issue of one of the 11 wrestling magazines he oversees, or simply recovering from the exhaustive 96-hour work week he routinely keeps up.

Then, between all of this, between the on-the-run meals and the few hours of sleep he manages to grab each night, King can usually be found in front of his television set, watching the hours of tape sent in from correspondents across the country, attempting to keep up with the ever-changing sport of professional wrestling. Understandably, he occasionally falls behind.

Which explains why our newest assistant editor, Dave Rosenbaum, didn't realize his foolishness when King walked in red-eyed on a Tuesday morning and said, "Call Dr. Basil immediately. Piper's at it again. He's turned fan favorite," and Rosenbaum sarcastically responded, "Where have you been? That happened four days ago!"



Roddy Piper glares at his former bodyguard, Ace Orton, who, under Adrian Adonis' employment, is now wearing a pink cowboy hat and being called "Acey."

King followed up this untimely remark with a barrage of insults that assaulted the sensitive ears of every female employee in the office and had Rosenbaum shaking in his shoes. Finally, after King was sufficiently calmed down and was convinced not to fire the young Rosenbaum for insubordination, an emergency meeting was called and the editorial board got down to the business at hand.

Roddy Piper has returned to the WWF, but this is not the Rowdy Roddy fans have come to know and hate. Or is it? According to a noted psychologist, Piper is impossible to gauge and capable of change at any time. And Hulk Hogan could be his victim

"This is an incredible development," said King. "From what I saw, Piper came onto the set of 'The Flower Shop' and told Adrian Adonis that he wanted his show back. Adonis refused, and then introduced Cowboy Bob Orton—whom he called 'Acey'—as his new bodyguard. Well, this shocked me, and then Piper exchanged some pretty heated words with Adonis, Orton, and



Jimmy Hart. From what I can tell, Piper has turned good and might be ready to align with Hogan. I think we had better call in Dr. Basil. He's an expert on Piper."

No sooner said than done. Rosenbaum, still worried about saving his job, tracked down the rather elusive and much-in-demand Dr. Basil at the psychologist's Berkeley retreat. The following day, Basil was flown to New York and taken by limousine to our New York office, where he was immediately shown a tape of the Flower Shop incident.

"This is most unusual," remarked Basil after viewing the tape several times. "You will remember that I said Piper could become a very believable fan favorite. Well, this is even more convincing than I myself could

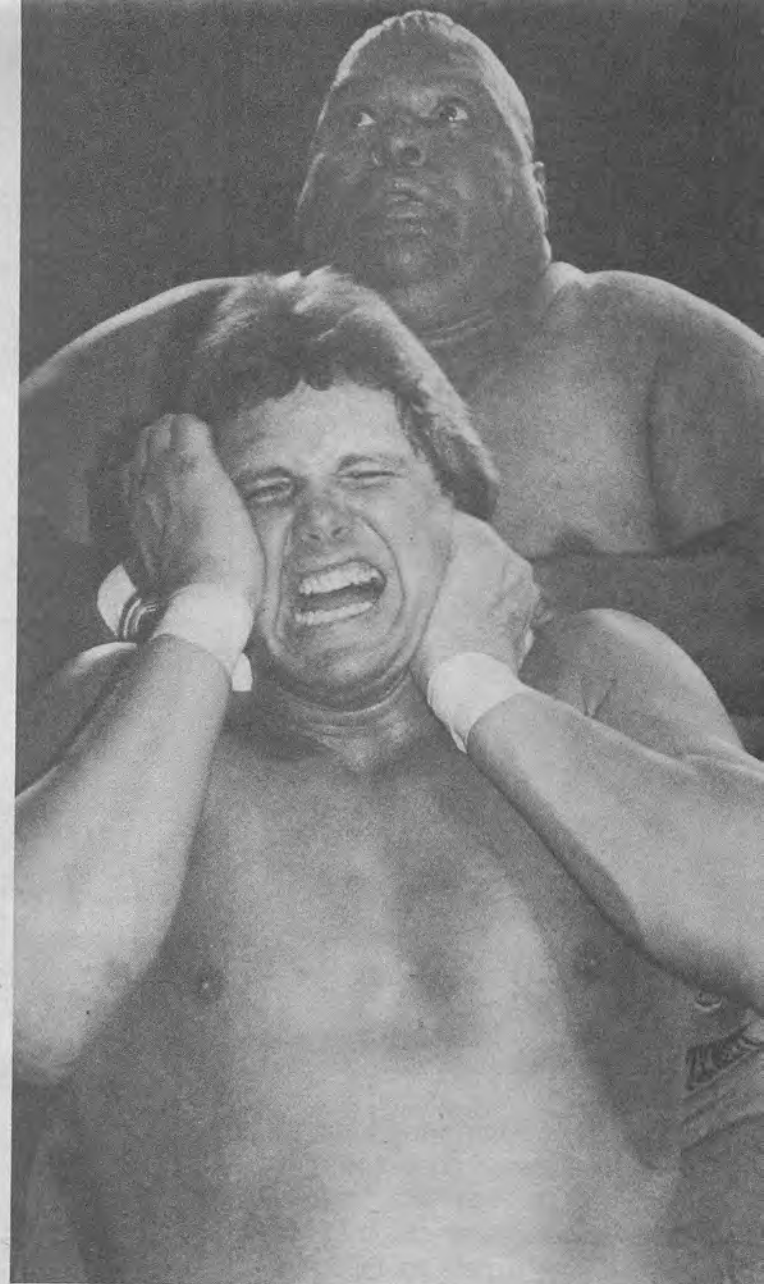
(Continued on page 64)



Bruiser Brody Predicts:



ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER WILL END CHRIS ADAMS' CAREER



BRUISER BRODY COULD not get comfortable. He shifted in his chair, shrugged his massive shoulders, fidgeted left, fussed right. He moved toward the water fountain leaving a heart-shaped pool of sweat in the leather seat.

"It's this monkey suit," Brody growled, referring to the three-piece ensemble he was sporting this morning. He looked like the famous picture of King Kong in a

tuxedo, but felt more like the picture of Kong in chains.

"I swear to God I'm suffocating," he gasped. "This is worse than being double-teamed. I wish he'd get the hell out of there already."

Brody was in the reception area of the Dallas Center of Ophthalmology, awaiting Chris Adams and the results of the latest tests on Adams' injury-plagued left eye.

It was 9 a.m., and although Brody rarely commits himself to anything before noon, it was he who suggested, after Adams was nearly decapitated by Abdullah the Butcher the night before, that Adams should have some further tests run.

Brody's ring image and his actual persona away from the ring are often at odds. In the ring, the favors Brody dispenses are done

According to Bruiser Brody, Chris Adams is begging for permanent injury if he persists in his latest feud against the Sudanese Killer, Abdullah the Butcher

for revenge, reparation, or out of his instinctual craving for violence. This morning, his regular habits were voluntarily disrupted out of concern for his good friend.

"Let me tell you something," he says, fondling his necktie like a noose, "I've known Abdullah the Butcher for a long, long time. And let's face it, the years have not been kind to him. He has allowed himself to degenerate into something less than human."

The book on Abdullah the Butcher is that he is not a stupid man. But years of self-abuse have withered his rationale to a point where he no longer cares about money, prestige, and image. His

Abdullah gasps for air after being chopped in the throat by Adams (below). The Butcher, typically, retaliates with a foreign object (right). If that spoon reaches Adams' eye, his career is over.



bloodlust has become legendary. And it is this bloodlust that worries Brody.

"Let me explain myself," he said. "I'm crazy! In the ring there is no one who gets more riled up than myself."

This is true. Anyone who has paid even scant attention to Brody's career can testify to his unpredictability. Yet, along with his maniacal tendencies is a scientific and strategic brilliance that has prompted more than one publication to call Brody the best wrestler in the world today.

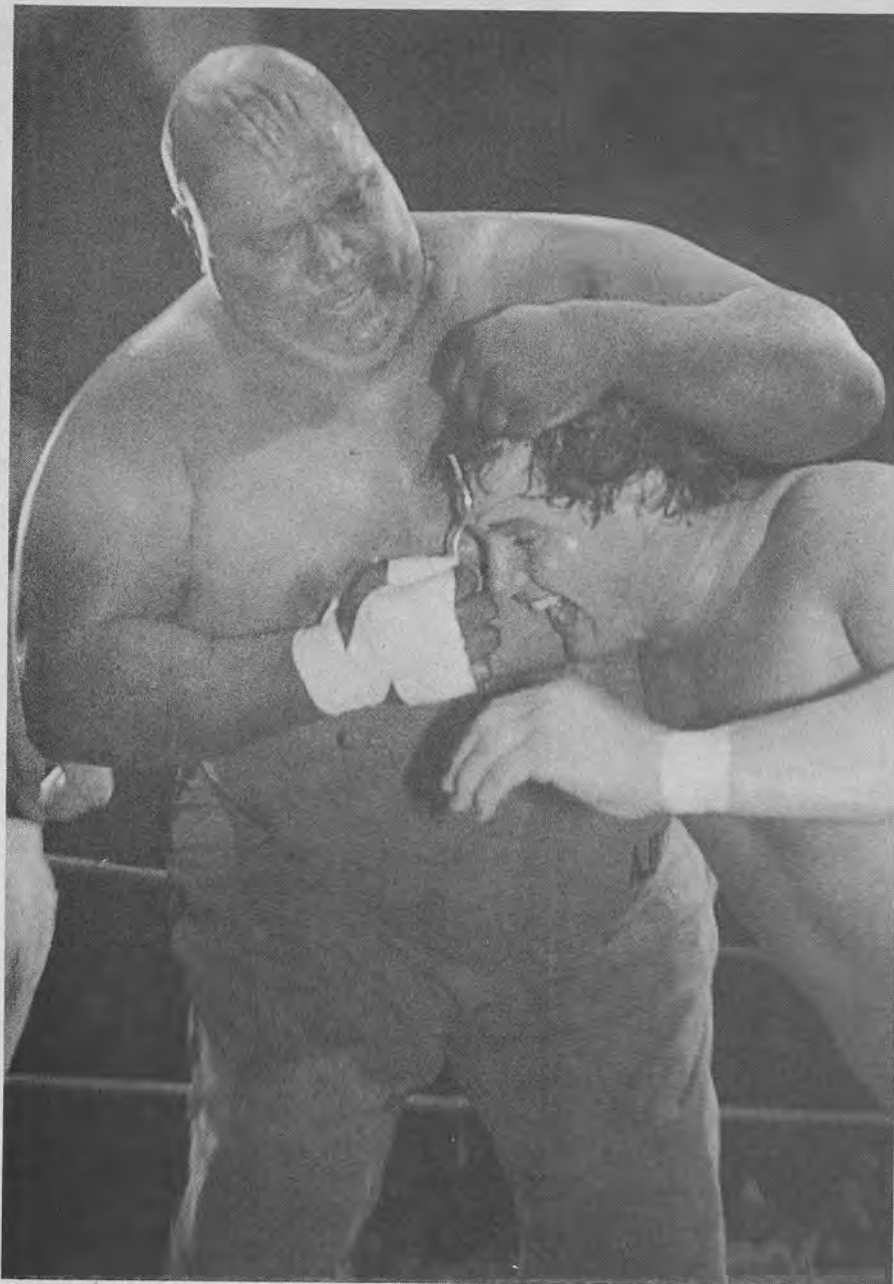
"I'm like Abdullah in that I don't care about titles," he continued. "Titles weigh you down. You become married to them. They make you lose your edge. I can understand why certain wrestlers shy away from them.

"And there are times, when my metabolism is just right, when I can feel the blood racing through my veins, that I know that beating on a man is the greatest thing I can do in this world. It's a rhapsody that's impossible to describe.

"But I'm not a lunatic. I get paid well for what I do in the ring.

I'm not averse to taking chances as long as I get my check. Abdullah doesn't give a hoot about anything. He'd get in the ring for nothing. And he's like that guy in the movies, uh, The Terminator. When he gets it into his head that he don't like you, there is nothing that can prevent him from going after you.

"Either you injure him or leave the area. Because he is relentless in his pursuit. And he has no conscience. He will do whatever it takes to inflict injury. There is never enough pain with the Butcher.



The Butcher continues to grind the spoon into Adams' face, cleverly hiding the crime from the referee (above). Only when Abdullah's manager, Gary Hart, interferes (right) does the Sudanese madman get disqualified.

will soon give him? In every likelihood he will not. Despite knowing the agony of several sightless months, Adams believes in his body's supernatural healing powers—especially since defeating Rick Rude for the World Class heavyweight championship.

"I'll tell you one thing," Brody warns, "and this is no sensationalistic bull. If Adams keeps on wrestling, he may very well survive. He is an excellent grappler who knows how to take care of himself.

"But if he keeps wrestling the



He will just keep going and going."

Adams' doctor, a renowned eye specialist, called Brody into his office. Brody followed him through a maze of examination rooms. Thirty-five minutes later, he reappeared, visibly shaken.

"Doc told me that Abdullah's attack on Adams with the spoon came a centimeter away from detaching his retina. The muscle in his left eye is so weak that such an injury would likely cause permanent eye damage. The doctor suggested that Adams not

only give up wrestling, but he should give up all sports where there is any sudden movement.

"He said that perhaps Mr. Adams would listen to me. He says he has been unable to convince him of the seriousness of the situation."

Brody removed his tie, his vest, and jacket with a swift jiggling of his body. He unbuttoned his shirt and removed his shoes. "That's much better. Now I can breathe at least."

Will Chris Adams pay any attention to the warning his friend

Butcher—especially now that Gary Hart is managing Abdullah—he will go blind. You got myself and the Von Erichs who will keep an eye—excuse the pun—on him, but we got our own careers to manage. Someday, Abdullah will catch Adams off-guard and that will be that. It'll be all over for him.

"But, hey. That's what this game is all about, isn't it? It wouldn't be any fun if there were no risks." Brody wasn't smiling as he sat back down and flipped open a magazine. □

World Title Scandal! WHY IS THE AWA PROTECTING NICK BOCKWINKEL?

A world champion is always the subject of intense scrutiny. Often there are accusations about that champion's claim to the title. But in the case of AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel, those accusations may build to a cry of impeachment!

WOULD YOU CONSIDER a champion worthy if he had not wrestled for the title; that is to say, if he was handed the championship on the basis of a forfeit decision?

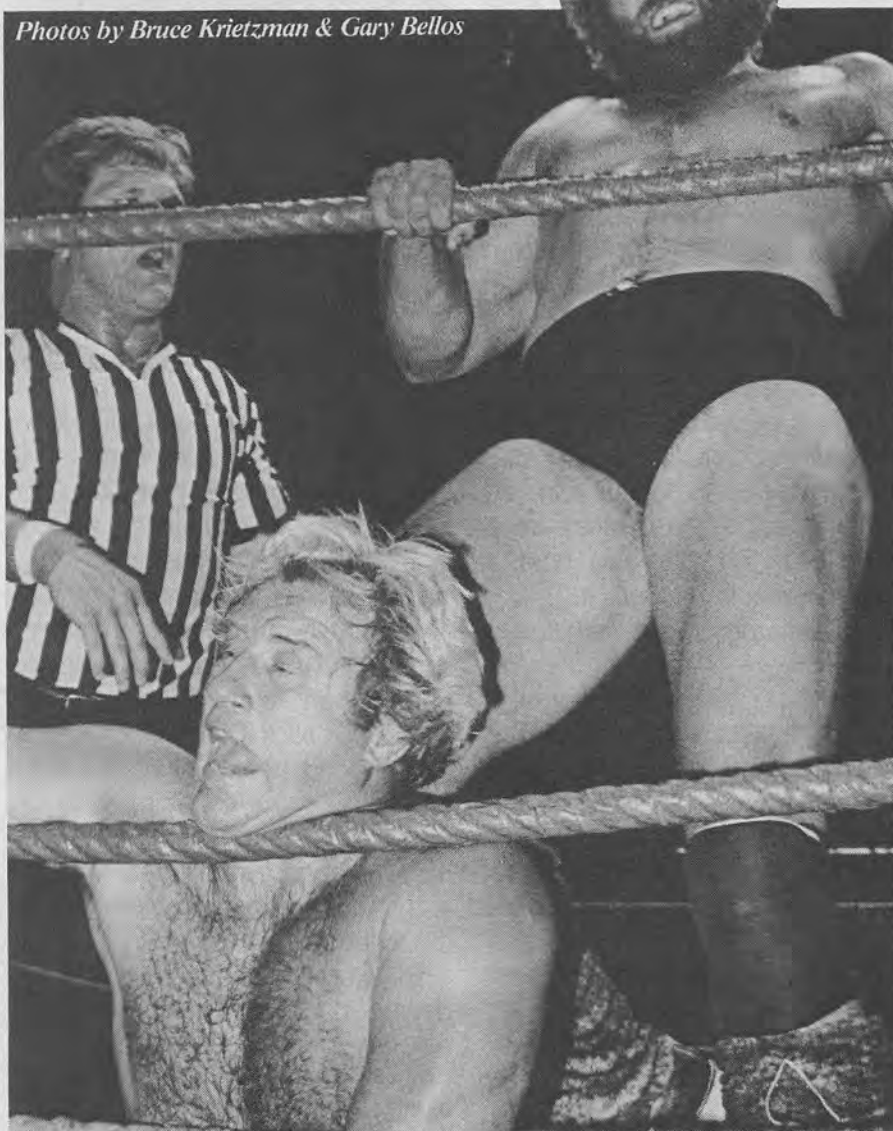
Would you consider a champion worthy if the former champ still had the title belt, and was in fact defending that belt in arenas halfway around the world?

Would you consider a champion worthy if he was the victim of pinfall after pinfall, night after night?

Of course, we're talking about Nick Bockwinkel and the AWA World title. But it all sounds just a little bit more dubious, if not downright ridiculous, when stated so matter-of-factly, doesn't it?

Let's face it: The AWA World title situation is a damnable mess, and it's not Bockwinkel's fault. It

Photos by Bruce Krietzman & Gary Bellos



Nord the Barbarian is one of several wrestlers who have defeated AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel in non-title matches. If Nord and the others do not get matches with the title on the line, the reputation of the AWA belt will be severely damaged.

may not even be former champion Stan Hansen's fault.

Indeed, if any accusing finger be pointed, let it point in the direc-

tion of AWA President Stanley Blackburn.

After all, it was Blackburn who made the decision to award Bock-

winkel the title when Hansen walked out on a Denver title defense. It's not as if Bockwinkel held several victories over Hansen, or even that he was the number one contender for months on end. Actually, Hansen had done a fine job of battering (and bettering) every contender who rose to the top of the AWA to challenge for his title. So fine a job, in fact, that there really wasn't *anyone* in the AWA who was considered a major threat to take the belt from him in the near future.

But nobody considered AWA President Blackburn.

There never was an official reason given, but Hansen walked out on a Denver title defense against Bockwinkel. Denver promoter Gene Reed nervously phoned Blackburn for advice. Blackburn said that if Hansen did not return before the end of the card, the title would be awarded to Bockwinkel by default.

A bad decision. A reprimand was certainly called for. A fine. Perhaps a brief suspension. At the most—the very most—strip Hansen of the title and hold a tournament for the belt.

But to simply award the title—a *world* title—to a man who never had to step into the ring to get it, save to shake the hand of the promoter who relayed the decision? That is a scandal of the highest order.

And Bockwinkel has not proven himself worthy during this, his fourth, title reign. He's been pinned in many non-title matches, most notably by contenders Col. DeBeers and Nord the Barbarian. Bockwinkel's claim to the title is shaky at best.

Meanwhile, Hansen is running around Japan, defending his claim to the AWA title against top Japanese contenders.

So why does the AWA continue to place the full weight of its organizational clout behind Bockwinkel?



el? Particularly in light of Hansen's Japan activities and the efforts of Japanese promoters to sign a Bockwinkel-Hansen match to clear up the confusion.

"A Bockwinkel-Hansen match is absolutely and totally unnecessary," said AWA President Blackburn when contacted by *The Wrestler*. "Nick Bockwinkel is the AWA World heavyweight champion. Hansen has no claim at all to the title. As far as the AWA offices are concerned, there simply is no controversy. Bockwinkel is the champion."

Blackburn's comments reek of denial—denial of the complexities of the series of events that brought the AWA title to Bockwinkel, denial of Hansen's complaints, and denial of Bockwinkel's sorry track record since being awarded the title.

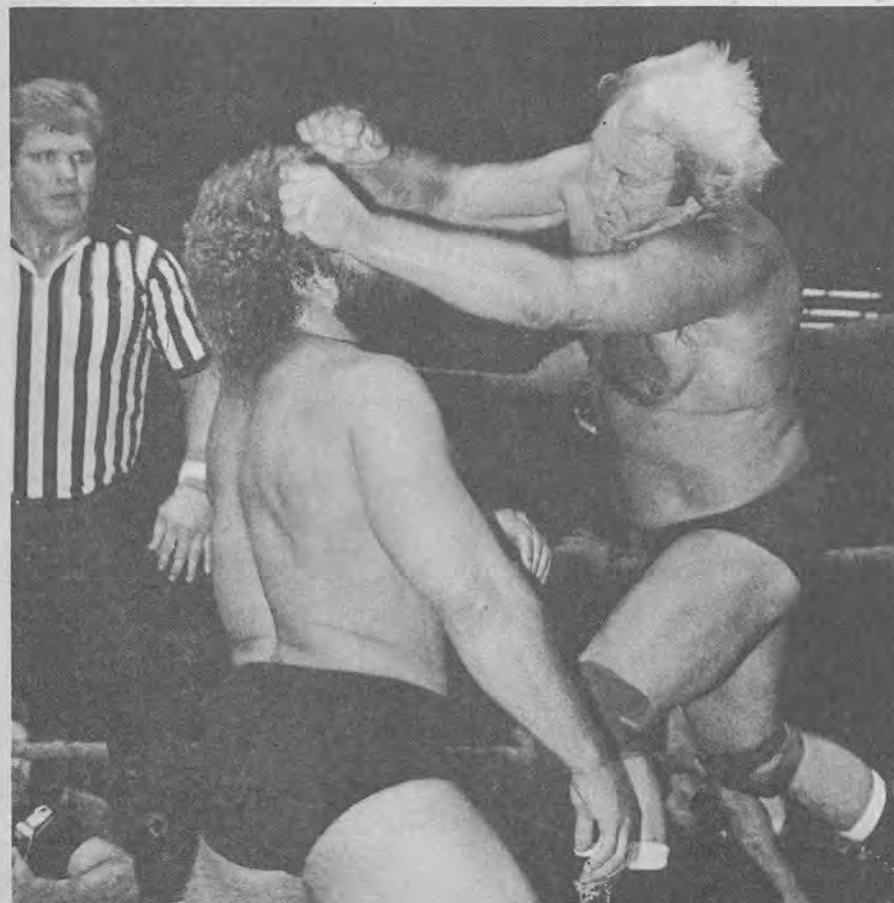
Again, the question: Why does the AWA continue to place the full weight of its organizational clout behind Bockwinkel?

Nord the Barbarian's dominance over Bockwinkel (top and below) has been thorough and embarrassing to AWA officials. Despite this, Nord has been denied title shots by President Stanley Blackburn.





Nord works on the champion's lower back muscles (above) in one of their frequent non-title bouts. Bockwinkel occasionally has the advantage (below) but rarely can sustain it for long. Is this the work of a champion?



We honestly don't know for sure, though the most obvious conclusion is that they simply wanted an excuse—*any* excuse—to get the title away from Hansen. After all, Hansen is an unruly and quite uncontrollable individual. Perhaps they feel that the title is safer around Bockwinkel's waist. Perhaps they feel that Bockwinkel is an easier individual over whom to exercise a modicum of control.

*[The question of whether or not Hansen should have been stripped of the title is posed to the fans in the "You Decide" feature in the current issue of **Wrestling 86.**]*

But maybe the more important question is this: Why is the AWA sanctioning so many non-title matches for Bockwinkel? Indeed, it appears as if they're sanctioning the bare minimum of title matches legally allowable for Bockwinkel to maintain his hold on the AWA title.

That amounts to an overt action of protection for the AWA champion, protection against men like Nord and DeBeers and others who have repeatedly proven superiority over the champion.

There are really only two major alternatives of action for the AWA to take:

- Open up Bockwinkel's title defense schedule. Those holding non-title victories over Bockwinkel deserve, and should receive, title matches.

- Allow Hansen to wrestle Bockwinkel and unify the twin claims to the AWA title.

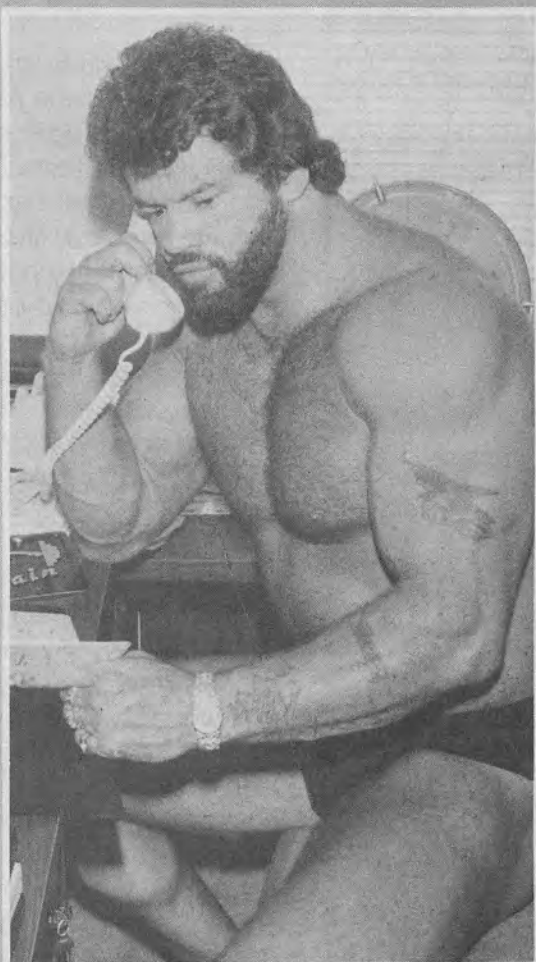
The AWA World champion should represent the federation and the fans. He should not, however, be so tightly controlled by that federation that the title loses any sense of worth it otherwise would have.

If the AWA does not take action soon, the complex multiple world title situation may—before the AWA realizes it—become one title less confusing. □

BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE



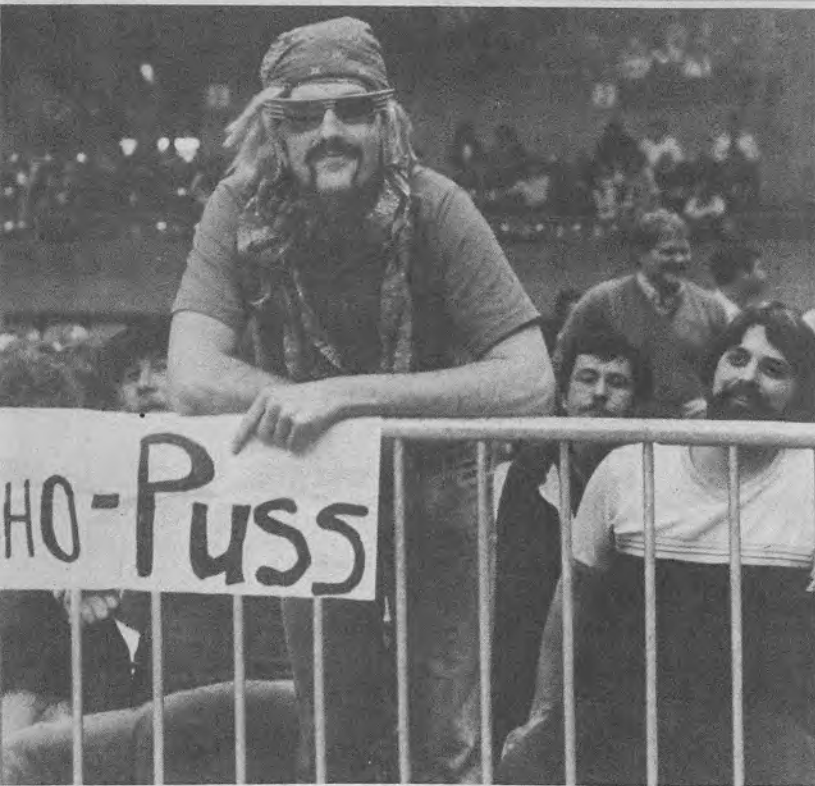
Ric Flair lives his life in the fast lane—and he does so in comfort. The NWA World champion has his own personal limousine and chauffeur.



Billy Jack Haynes, hardly dressed like your typical executive, checks his date book before agreeing to a match.



Sam Houston and his mother, Marsha, clown for our photographer before one of Sam's matches.



Left: This fan's costume was so convincing that he signed several autographs before people realized he was not Jesse Ventura.



Above: Sky Low Low, still active at 55 years old, has some words of advice for King Kong Bundy, who is about four times his size.

It's always a good day for Florida's economy when Sir Oliver Humperdink does his grocery shopping!



Southern champion Lex Luger heeds the sagacious words of veteran wrestling announcer Gordon Solie.

OFF WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, as well as top 10 Women ratings, are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Nick Bockwinkel

TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
U.S. heavyweight champion
275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
WWF Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**TERRY GORDY**
UWF heavyweight champion
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 1 contender: NWA title
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
AWA World champion
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 8—**CHRIS ADAMS**
World Class champion
230, Stratford, England
- 9—**LEX LUGAR**
Southern champion
280, Chicago, IL
- 10—**MAGNUM T.A.**
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
245, Chesapeake, VA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 2—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 3—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 4—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 5—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 6—**THE FANTASTICS**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 7—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 8—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 9—**THE FABULOUS ONES**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 10—**IRON SHEIK & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 607 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.)

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 6—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 10—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL

245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
- 4—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 5—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
- 6—**STAN HANSEN**
303, Borger, TX
- 7—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 8—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 9—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—**LEON WHITE**
303, Denver, CO

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 5—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY
- 6—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 7—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**KING KONG BUNDY**
468, Atlantic City, NJ
- 10—**HARLEY RACE**
255, Kansas City, MO

WOMEN

- 1—**SHERRI MARTEL**
AWA Women's champion
132, New Orleans, LA
- 2—**WENDI RICHTER**
WWC Women's champion
142, Dallas, TX
- 3—**FABULOUS MOOLAH**
WWF Women's champion
138, Columbia, SC
- 4—**MISTY BLUE SIMMES**
IWF Women's champion
118, Glens Falls, NY
- 5—**VELVET MCINTYRE**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
135, Dublin, Ireland
- 6—**CANDI DIVINE**
No. 1 contender: AWA title
127, Nashville, TN
- 7—**LINDA DALLAS**
No. 1 contender: IWF title
109, Dallas, TX
- 8—**DEBBIE COMBS**
No. 2 contender: AWA title
138, Ft. Campbell, KY
- 9—**KAT LeROUX**
No. 2 contender: IWF title
120, New Orleans, LA
- 10—**SUSAN STARR**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
135, Tulsa, OK

CIAL G RATINGS

WORLD CHAMP.

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 6—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 7—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 9—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia

UWF

- 1—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 2—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 4—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 5—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
- 7—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 8—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
- 9—**RICK STEINER**
265, Detroit, MI
- 10—**STING**
270, parts unknown

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 2—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 3—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 4—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 5—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 6—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 8—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 9—**KILLER BROOKS**
261, Waxahachie, Texas
- 10—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—**RON BASS**
265, Pampa, TX
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
297, Africa
- 6—**ED GANTNER**
269, Tampa, FL
- 7—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 8—**THE WHITE NINJA**
231, Japan
- 9—**TYREE PRIDE**
231, Haiti
- 10—**THE CUBAN ASSASSIN**
236, Cuba

Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices.

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
390, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**JOS LeDUC**
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 4—**TRACY SMOTHERS**
236, Atlanta, GA
- 5—**HILLBILLY ELMER**
406, Philadelphia, MS
- 6—**PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 7—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 8—**J.T. SOUTHERN**
251, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 9—**AIKO SATO**
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 10—**PAT TANAKA**
225, Honolulu, Hawaii

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 2—**JERRY STUBBS**
235, Pensacola, FL
- 3—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 4—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 5—**TONY ANTHONY**
248, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**STEVE ARMSTRONG**
234, Marietta, GA
- 7—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 8—**TOMMY RICH**
232, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 10—**ROY WELCH**
224, Tulsa, Oklahoma

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**GIANT MACHINE**
485, Japan
- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 5—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 6—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 7—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 8—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 9—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 10—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX

MOST HATED

- 1—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 4—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 9—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 10—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa

For period ended August 27, 1986

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Farewell to one, hello to another: This issue, we institute Women's Top 10 ratings on our ratings page. Because of this change, we expect two deluges of mail: one from fans of the women thanking us for adding the ladies to the ratings, and another from Pacific Northwest fans damning us for eliminating that category.

Unfortunately for the loyal Pacific Northwest fans, our ratings pages limit the number of categories we're able to present. In order to add women, we had to eliminate something else. It was a difficult choice, but Northwest ratings were the ones to go. We will, of course, check in on the PNW ratings every few months right here in "Ratings Analysis."



Misty Blue Simmes

As far as the Women category is concerned, it's all pretty self-explanatory. There are four major women champions competing in the U.S. at this moment: WWF Women's champion **Fabulous Moolah**, AWA Women's champion **Sherri Martel**, World Wrestling Council Women's champion **Wendi Richter**, and ICW Women's champion **Misty Blue Simmes**.

Those four champions, plus the top contenders to their titles, comprise our Top 10.

A couple of quick additional notes: As with the Top 10 and Tag Teams categories, the Women ratings are determined by a consensus of the editorial board of this magazine. And as with all the ratings categories, these ratings reflect U.S.-based competition; therefore, such famed women wrestlers as **The Crush Girls**, **Devil Masami**, and **Dump** and **Bull Nakano** are not rated here. Should any of these top Japanese women compete in the States for a period of time, they will be considered for inclusion in our ratings.

Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan—Pro and Con: Mike Facciani's letter in "Ratings Analysis" two months back brought in a lot of mail. Here are two representative letters:

• *From Troy Abrams, Lexington, KY:* I agree with Mike Facciani on his views and opinions of **Ric Flair** in the October 1986 "Ratings Analysis." Ric Flair is not a true champion! He doesn't deserve to be number one. Yes, Flair does defend his belt against all challengers, but how many pinfalls has he had in these matches? Very few

against "top-notch" contenders such as **Magnum T.A.**, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Ronnie Garvin**, and so forth. A great deal of the pinfalls he has had against these men are due to outside interference (**Tully Blanchard** and **Arn** and **Ole Anderson**). When Flair feels he's losing, and he doesn't have anyone around to help him, he wins by having himself disqualified.



Hulk Hogan

Hulk Hogan, on the other hand, is a true champion. He is truly the best wrestler in the sport today. He doesn't need to win unfairly, and he doesn't. Yes, Hogan has had a few losses, but the greater number of his matches (if no cheating is involved) Hogan wins. There are great many talented wrestlers in the WWF, and Hogan has defeated most of them.

Hulk Hogan has contributed a great deal to wrestling, and he deserves to be number one!

Your ratings should have a true champion as number one, not someone who wins the greater part of his matches the way Ric Flair does. Flair is a sorry excuse for a champion. He takes every cheap shot and shortcut available to win. Is that how he stays number one? If it is, I think it's a dirty way to stay on top. Hulk Hogan should be where Ric Flair is right now!

• *From Tim Bagnall, Hillside, IL:* I think Mike Facciani is an idiot, and that he doesn't know what he's talking about. He says Hulk Hogan is the number one wrestler, but Hogan only knows about two wrestling moves! Ric Flair wrestles **Magnum T.A.**, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Lex Luger**, **Nikita Koloff**, **Barry Windham**, **Bruiser Brody**, **Ronnie Garvin**, and even **The Road Warriors**. All those men would waste Hogan, but they haven't wasted Flair yet—and they never will.

Flair is smart and a great wrestler, and the NWA is far, far better than the WWF. One regular NWA card is better than the WWF's biggest (**WrestleManias 1 and 2**). The NWA matches are better. Ric Flair rules!

Write, right? Of course we want to know what you think—that's why we print our address at the bottom of each column! Here we go again: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □

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910 Drinking Helmet \$9.98

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Realistic looking. Produce thick clouds of smoke. Watch 'em head for the hills.

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7 1/2" open - 4" closed. Features special safety lock to prevent accidental closing.

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9072 Sportsman's Knife \$3.98

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Overcome your awkwardness. Become a confident kisser. Nearly 250,000 copies sold. Teaches you how to develop courage, overcome shyness, use body language. Step-by-step instructions help you communicate with members of the opposite sex, develop more stimulating and responsible relationships. With pictures.

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4902 Kodak Color 126 Cartridge \$2.95

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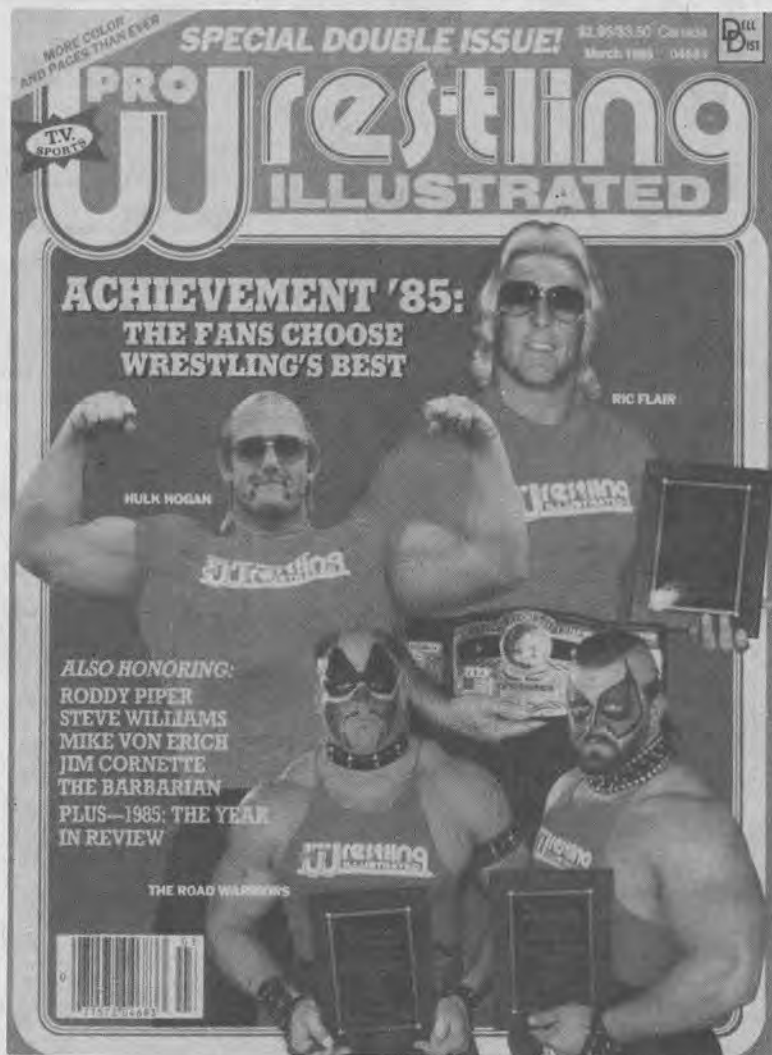
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

more media coverage.

I would also like to know why someone from New Jersey thinks he has the right to criticize the Continental area when he has probably never even seen a match in this area? Southeastern means just that—Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Mississippi. How does he know what kind of wrestling there is in this area? He probably wouldn't know a great wrestler if one came up and bodyslammed him! If he wants to complain, let him make his complaints about an area he knows something about!

ANGIE CHAMPION
Vandiver, AL

WHAT'S THE STORY, GUYS?

In the July 1986 issue of *The Wrestler*, you did something for which you often criticize the WWF. You did not tell the fans the whole story. I am very disappointed in you. Very disappointed. But in all fairness, I will give you a chance to redeem yourselves.

You ran a story on the match between Nikita Koloff and Superstar Billy Graham. The story opened with a flashback to a 1973 tag team match in which Ivan Koloff turned on Graham. The article also went on to say that the Nikita-Superstar match had more intensity because of the hatred Ivan and Superstar felt for each other from that incident long ago. But you left out a very important detail. Ivan and Billy had buried the hatchet some years later and were a tag team for several months in the WWF in 1976.

Now, I wonder why you forgot to mention that. Could it be that that fact (the 1976 Koloff-Graham reconciliation) would make it seem unlikely that the past relationship between Ivan and Superstar would have much of an effect on Nikita's battle with Graham?

MIKE DESENNA
Hicksville, NY

BUT NOBODY'S LAUGHING

Once again, the American Wrestling Association has proven itself to be the biggest joke of a wrestling organization that has ever existed. Their rulings are absurd and their decision-making is senseless. The AWA is quickly losing the respect it once enjoyed in the wrestling community.

Scott Hall and Curt Hennig lost the AWA tag team title to Doug Somers and Buddy Rose on a countout. A countout! Since when does a title in the AWA change hands in this man-



ner? The AWA's statement that a title can change hands on "certain types" of countouts is sheer stupidity. Past AWA tag team champions such as Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel, Stevens and Pat Patterson, and Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum often got themselves intentionally counted out to save their titles. If such a rule does exist, how come the aforementioned teams were always able to retain their titles?

But what really takes the cake is that for the second time in five years, the AWA has handed over its World title to Nick Bockwinkel. At least Rose and Somers wrestled for their title.

(Continued on page 50)

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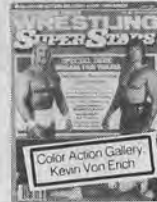
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

Bockwinkel never had to step into the ring. One would think that the AWA would have learned from the criticism it received back in 1981 when Bockwinkel was given the championship after Verne Gagne retired. True, Bockwinkel, the former champion, was the number one contender. But there were other top contenders as well and a tournament should have been held to determine a new champion.

But the AWA did not learn as it has once again made a mockery of its title. A title must be won in the ring. A similar situation happened in the NWA a few years back. Georgia champion Ken Patera walked out of The Omni right before a scheduled defense against Tommy Rich. After stripping Patera of the title, the NWA held a tournament to crown a new champion. Maybe that's why the NWA is the most respected league in pro wrestling, and the AWA is the most pathetic.

The AWA calls itself the "major league of professional wrestling." I'm calling it the laughingstock of the entire sports world.

ALFRED TICINETO
North Babylon, NY

VIEWS FROM THE GALLERY

I'll start off dangerously. I'm a Ric Flair fan. Supporting the man has led to my being attacked (both physically and verbally) at various arenas. I admire his stance of wrestling before show business. No beach towels, kites, records, or TV deals, just pure wrestling. Where Stan Hansen ducked challenges, Ric faced them all. While Hogan missed five straight Madison Square Garden shows, Flair defended his "10 pounds of gold" night after night against all of the top challengers.

Fine, hate what he has done to many opponents over the years, but while people laughed over his temporary setback, remember the standards he has set as champion.

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On to a few views from a jaded critic. Thanks for the Lex Luger stories. Why not make it easier on your readers and cancel the "Rookie of the Year" contest?

How about a thumbs up for Florida wrestling's missing children segment. They show two children each week at a time when most promotions are hyping cards or selling products. While on the subject of Florida, how about some applause for The Fabulous Ones? They've done many hours of work with the handicapped and speak out on drug abuse.

Thanks for recognizing Philadelphia's NWA Civic Center shows. The promoters have a great card every show, the wrestling is top-flight, and they've been outdrawing The Spectrum.

And, to close, thanks for the many years of enjoyment that your family of magazines have provided. I've bought every magazine on the market, but only trust yours.

DOT BELLOW
Trenton, NJ □

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Doll is keeping the company of Ric Flair.

Giant Machine, Super Machine, and Big Machine are drumming up some fan interest in the WWF. The August card at Madison Square Garden drew a sellout crowd, most of whom came to see Super Machine and Big Machine wrestle **King Kong Bundy** and **John Studd**. Giant Machine, whom many people think is actually the suspended **Andre the Giant**, interfered on numerous occasions and The Machines were eventually disqualified. **Bobby Heenan** is still trying to prove that Giant Machine is Andre. If he does so, Andre will be suspended for life.

The UWF tag team belts have been held up following a controversial title match between **Eddie Gilbert** and **Blade Runner Sting** and the **The Fantastics**. Gilbert and Sting were joined by **Missy Hyatt**

and **John Tatum** at ringside. Sting and Tommy Rogers were battling outside the ring when Gilbert grabbed Hyatt's pocketbook and slugged his father, referee **Tommy Gilbert**. While Tommy tried to take the bag from Missy, Bobby Fulton attempted to pin Eddie, but Tatum threw white powder in his face. Eddie followed with the pin, but afterward, alternate referee **Carl Fergie** intervened and the pin was ruled invalid.

Sgt. Slaughter is in for a big surprise. Although he has not been informed as of press time, Slaughter's Americas title has been declared vacant by the AWA due to a lack of defenses. Slaughter is doing most of his wrestling these days in upstate New York, New Jersey, and New England for the National Wrestling Federation. AWA President **Stanley Blackburn**

(Continued on page 54)



Blade Runner Sting works on Bobby Fulton from outside the ring. Following a match between Sting and Eddie Gilbert and The Fantastics, the UWF tag team belts have been held up.

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July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. **Bruno Sammartino**, Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. **Bruno vs. Zbyszko**, Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR PINUP: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. **Tommy Rich**, Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Hulk Hogan**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



DECEMBER 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

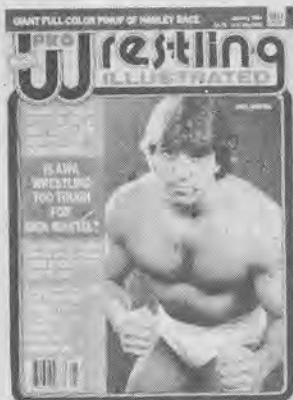
July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



JANUARY 1984

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rocky Johnson. **Ric Flair**, Hogan, Andre, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. **Barry Windham**, Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

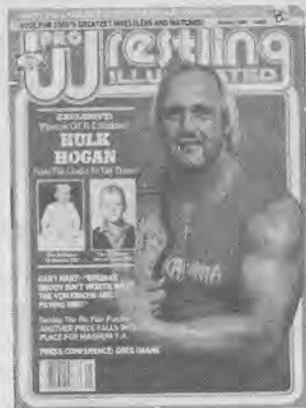
November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.



JANUARY 1986

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 52)

would not reveal his plans for fill-
ing the vacancy.

Tom Zenk and **Dan Kroffat** are
the new Canadian tag team cham-
pions. In an unusual situation, the
belts were taken from **The Long
Riders** after a controversial deci-
sion but returned to them after a
hearing. In their first defense, how-
ever, they lost the belts to Zenk and
Kroffat. These two teams are still
feuding . . . **Dino Bravo** is having
trouble regaining his Canadian In-



Dino Bravo has outwrestled The Great
Samu, but has been unable to regain the
Canadian International title due to the inter-
ference of manager Floyd Creatchman.

ternational title from **The Great
Samu**, due to constant interference
by Samu's manager, **Floyd
Creatchman**.

As usual, there's plenty of trou-
ble brewing in the Mid-Southern
area, and once again it involves a
J.D. Costello tag team. In the after-
math of last month's reprehensible
attack on two fans, **Fire and Flame**
were banned from television.

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Now, promoter **Eddie Marlin** has backtracked a bit. He has told Fire and Flame that they can appear on television only if three conditions are met: They must put their tag team titles on the line in each match, Marlin is allowed to choose their opponents, and they won't know who they're wrestling until they appear in the ring. Marlin also told Fire and Flame that if they lose the title, they're out of town.

Lex Luger regained the Southern title from **Masked Superstar** just one

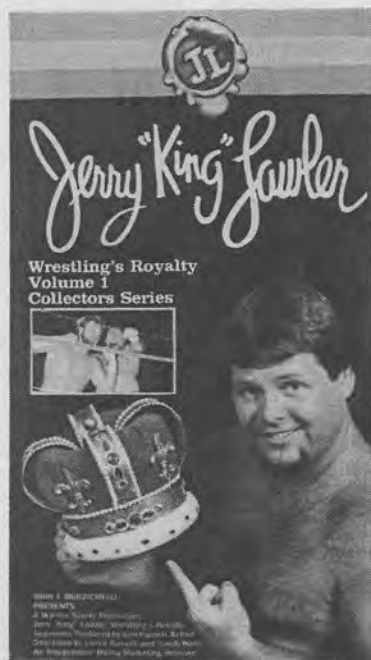


It only took Lex Luger a week to regain the Southern title after losing it to the Masked Superstar.

week after he lost it illegally ... **Steve Simpson** won the World Class television title from **Buzz Sawyer**, who still holds the Texas belt ... **Kabuki** and **Austin Idol** are now wrestling in the Mid-Southern area ... Rumors continue to circulate that **Nikita Koloff** is planning on taking his recently won U.S. belt to the Soviet Union, but so far nothing has happened. According to my sources, **Magnum T.A.** is privately distraught over losing the series for the title.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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CORRESPONDENTS

(Continued from page 10)

Raleigh, NC (Correspondent—Lori Thornton): Tully Blanchard, Ole Anderson, and Arn Anderson battled The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Magnum T.A. in a six-man tag team match, the main event of an NWA card at the Dorton Arena.

After a series of events, Rick Morton and Magnum T.A. found themselves outside the ring with Ole Anderson and Blanchard. Referee Tommy Young tried to restore order, leaving Gibson alone in the ring with Arn Anderson. Gibson put Anderson in a sleeper, but J.J. Dillon entered the ring and Gibson put the sleeper on him. Arn hit Gibson from behind and then received help from from Dillon in delivering a double-gourdbuster.



Arn Anderson twists the wrist of Rock 'n' Roller Rick Morton and awaits the signal from his cousin Ole to tag off.

Meanwhile, Ole and Blanchard kept Morton and T.A. busy outside the ring. Arn kept Gibson down for the pin by using his wrestling tights for extra leverage, but Morton was unable to get back into the ring in time to save his partner. The Andersons, Blanchard, and Dillon quickly exited to the dressing room.

In other bouts: Todd Champion defeated Thunderfoot ... The

Warlord destroyed Mark Fleming ... Steve Regal pinned The Italian Stallion ... Black Bart kept his Mid-Atlantic title by disqualification over Don Kernodle ... Manny Fernandez and Jimmy Garvin wrestled to a draw ... The Midnight Express defeated Ron Garvin and Wahoo McDaniel.

Scranton, PA (Correspondent—Mark Ritter): Former WWF Intercontinental kingpin Tito Santana met former NWA World titleholder Harley Race in what turned out to be a pier-six brawl at the Catholic Youth Center.

Santana gained the first advantage with a series of hiptosses and armdrags. Race seemed to be confused by Santana's speed as the veteran walked around the ring in a daze. After several attempts, Race came back with a series of suplexes, headbutts, and a clothesline. Race set Tito in motion, Santana connected with a flying bodypress. After that, the rulebook was thrown out the window.

After Race tossed Tito out of the ring, he connected with a suplex and flying headbutts on the floor. But Race missed a headbutt and his head connected with the officials' table and the rail surrounding the ring.

The two wrestlers climbed back to the ring apron and Race

suplexed Santana in the ring. Santana made two figure-four leglock attempts, but Race kicked out both times. Race then went to the top rope, only to be slammed to the canvas by Tito. Santana went for the pin, but just as the referee's hand was going to three, the bell sounded for a time-limit draw. Race wanted more, but after Santana delivered a series of punches and a chair to the head, Race made a hasty retreat to the dressing room.

In other bouts: The British Bulldogs beat Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake ... George Steele beat Adrian Adonis by disqualification ... Cowboy Bob Orton pinned King Tonga ... Lanny Poffo pinned Les Thornton ... Iron Mike Sharpe defeated Brickhouse Brown.

Bryan, TX (Correspondent—Chris Harwell): World Class Wrestling returned to the Brazos Valley Pavilion Center, where an enthusiastic crowd watched a fine matchup between Lance Von Erich and Buzz Sawyer.

Sawyer started the match by raking Lance's eyes and biting him, but the advantage would last only a few minutes. Lance came back with dropkicks and forearm smashes that sent Sawyer reeling. Lance, however, missed a dropkick and was powerslammed by Sawyer.

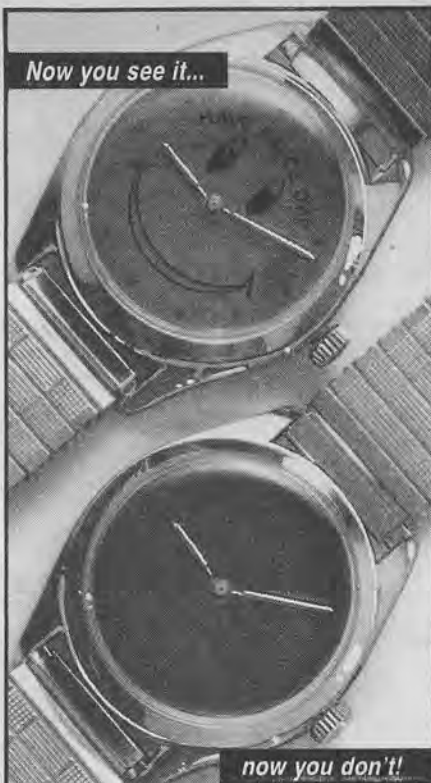
Sawyer went to the top turnbuckle, but Lance caught him and swung him into the ropes. Lance weakened Sawyer with the famed Von Erich iron claw, but Sawyer reached the ropes to force a break. Von Erich, though, maintained his advantage. He caught Sawyer with a dropkick and then, from the top turnbuckle, crossbodyblocked Buzz for the win.

In other bouts: Matt Borne defeated Steve Simpson ... Chris Adams & Sunshine defeated Rick Rude & Raven ... Steve Simpson defeated Perry Jackson. ☐



Tito Santana has to settle for a time-limit draw after his hard-fought battle with veteran Harley Race.

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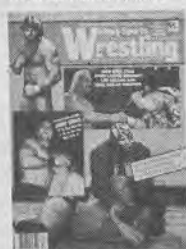
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

recovering from this darn motorcycle accident and returning to wrestling. For as long as I can remember, the only thing I've wanted to be is a professional wrestler, and I intend to devote my entire life to it. If I was to make a movie some day, I'd make sure that it didn't interfere with my main career."

- Q: "I have a question for 'Gentleman' Chris Adams: If the result of the vicious attack from the late Gino Hernandez would have left you blinded for life, or with partial vision, what would you be doing now?"—Amy Louise Weston, Eastover, SC
- A: "Well, first of all, I'd be having this letter translated into Braille," answered Adams. "Seriously, I would have gone into some kind of social work, perhaps started my own drug rehabilitation center, and devoted it to the memory of Gino Hernandez, as my way of saying, all is forgiven. I'd try to make it so that the rest of my left was spent doing something useful. Fortunately, this didn't happen and I am still wrestling. I thank the Lord for this."

- Q: "My question is for Ted DiBiase: When 'Dr. Death' gets back from his injury, I can't wait to see you two clip The Freebirds' wings. What means of punishment do you have for them?"—John Munyan, Gibbstown, NJ
- A: "I've always believed in an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, John," replied DiBiase, "and I'm not gonna rest until I see all those Freebirds, and I mean Gordy, Roberts, and Hayes, with

(Continued on page 62)

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.
July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Awards Poll
April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.
June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
August 1981/Freebirds, Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.



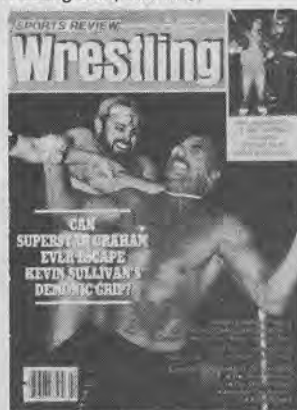
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October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.



FEBRUARY 1985

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta, Steamboat.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, first UWF title tourney.

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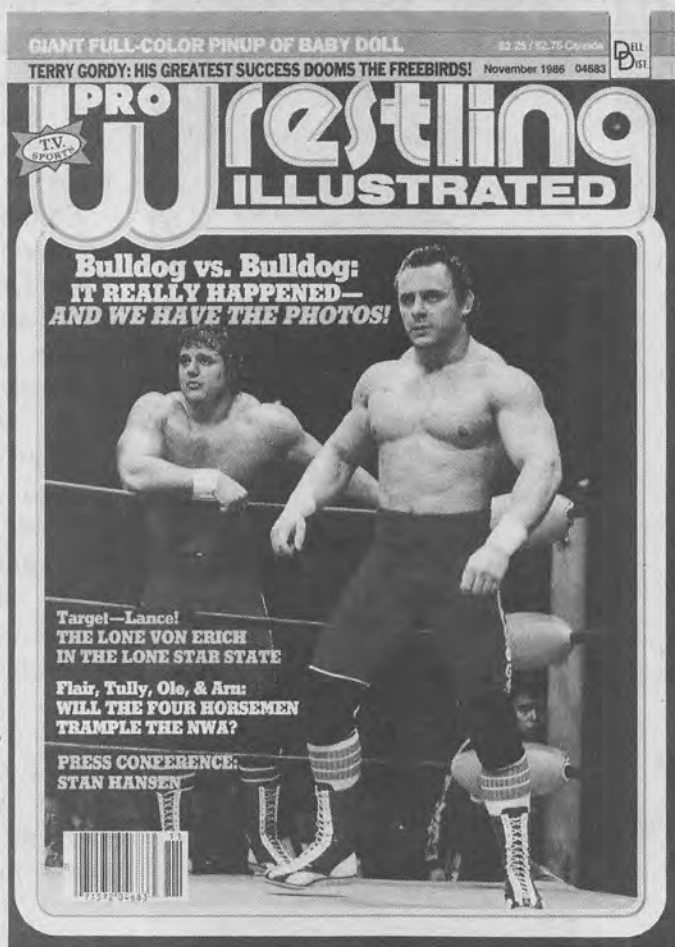
(Continued from page 58)

braces around their necks. These guys have no idea what kind of damage they can do to a person, or maybe they do. I certainly wouldn't put it past such a low down, disrespectful band of cretins such as The Freebirds. Just mark my words. They will pay the price."

Q: "My question is for Paul Jones: Why don't you send your Army out after some titles instead of being bogged down with this feud with Jimmy Valiant? I am sure that Konga the Barbarian, Teijho Khan, and Baron Von Raschke could capture the NWA World six-man title with little trouble at all. Why are you letting the great talents of your wrestlers go to waste?"—Tony Pasour, Bessemer City, NC

A: "If it's not bad enough that I must answer a question posed by a resident of Bessemer City," Jones replied, "I must also deal with your underhanded insults and the lack of respect you show for my managerial genius. I do not waste talent. I discover prospects and nurture them into the finest athletes in the world. I also work with a purpose in mind. When you see me sending my men out against Jimmy Valiant, it is actually part of a greater and more glorious plan, what I would call the final solution to the bald-headed geek problem. We have dealt Valiant the crushing blow. Anything else that is done will be at his initiative. As for the six-man title, we have every intention of winning every world championship available. Our goal is straightforward and eminently expansive."

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WARNING TO HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



Now that he's a fan favorite again, perhaps Piper will again feud with Greg Valentine (above). Certainly, we can expect some more Piper vs. Paul Orndorff battles (below).



have imagined. Maybe all of that time off, making the movie and associating with the outside world, did him some good. His speech patterns have changed entirely. Mr. Piper seems much more in control of himself, even when provoked, and never once lapsed into his rambling style of speech. Perhaps he is serious about this change."

But could it be true? More than once in the past, Piper was a fan favorite and turned rulebreaker. His two-year feud with Hulk Hogan became the most publicized rivalry in wrestling, culminating in

the famous "War To Settle The Score," in which Piper, Paul Orndorff, and Bob Orton attacked Hogan, Mr. T, Cyndi Lauper, and Lou Albano. His ring style and obnoxious personality made him the only man to win "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year" two straight times.

So how could he have changed so much? Take the situation with Paul Orndorff. Piper and "Mr. Wonderful" teamed up against Hogan and Mr. T in the inaugural WrestleMania, but Piper and Orndorff crossed signals, causing Orndorff's eventual pin. This caused a breakup of the team and led to Orndorff's friendship with Hogan.

We all know how that one turned out. Orndorff finally turned on Hogan and is now aligned with Orton, King Kong Bundy, John Studd, and Adonis. This was obviously a contrived, pre-planned situation. When Orndorff stepped into the ring with Hogan for that fateful match against Bundy and Studd, his plans were already made. The same could be true with Piper. The possibility certainly exists that Adonis and Orndorff have sent out Piper as the bait to lure an unsuspecting Hogan.

"This is very possible," agreed Dr. Basil. "It would be very consistent with Piper's personality. He is a very dangerous man, and I would suggest that Hogan keep a very close eye on him. Even if Piper's change of heart is for real—and remember, subconsciously, Piper wants to be loved by the fans—he's capable of turning around at any time. I see no reason right now why Hogan shouldn't join Piper, but he must keep his guard up. You never know when Piper's going to slip, and when he does, it's going to be a scary situation." □

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Average Gridity (size)	2.84 in.	0.4 in.
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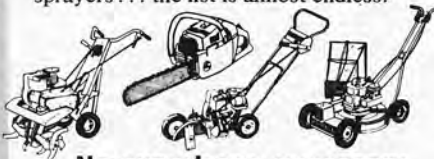
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